

# Third Grade Circular



September 12, 2013

## Reading

Students are currently working in smaller shared reading groups to develop and strengthen their use of reading strategies. Deeper character study will also be an area of focus. In the coming months we will complete a non-fiction unit and spend time with partner reading.

**Tip:** Share non-fiction text with your child by encouraging them to read aloud so you can help with vocabulary. Keep some magazines in the car and create spontaneous read aloud moments and discussion. Kids love to read for a captive audience! <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scholasticnews/index.htm> has kid friendly articles for online reading.

## Writing

Third graders are currently working on personal narratives and/or fiction writing. Students are working through the writing process by brainstorming, prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Daily mini- lessons focus on ideas, organization, elaboration, editing, and character development. **TIP:** There are a wide variety of writing games available at <http://www.funenglishgames.com/writinggames.html>

## Math

This week third graders finished Unit 5 and took their test on Bar Modeling. The purpose of this unit is to represent and solve math problems using pictorial representations. This strategy helps students “see” what math looks like. The basic structures they are learning now will be used to help them master more complicated concepts in the future. Our next unit will focus on multiplication. You can help at home by encouraging your child to practice their X facts.

## Science: Structures of Life

Mrs. Johnson’s class has been studying the ‘Structures of Life’ unit in the science lab. They are currently studying crayfish to closely observe the structures and behaviors of an invertebrate. They will also spend time observing different seeds to compare the properties found in various types of fruits. They will soak and break open lima seeds to identify the main structures of a seed: the seed coat, embryo and cotyledon. Students will also observe the germination stage and life cycle of the Brassica Plant.

## Social Studies

Mr. Chaney and Ms. McKenna’s classes are finishing up their landform/map skills unit and will soon start preparing for their upcoming test. They will follow up with their country research projects after the Thanksgiving break. **TIP:** **Scribblemaps.com** provides opportunities for map study and labeling practice with its paint tools. Let your child explore to build their confidence in using new technology and practice their map skills at the same time.

## Important Dates

### Special Visitors Day- Nov. 14

Third graders will welcome special visitors at 11:00.

Thanksgiving Break- No school Wed. Thurs. and Friday, Nov. 27-29th.