



Third Grade News  
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### Greetings,

It is finally Pioneer Farm time! Even in the rain we will all have fun. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been at a fevered pitch this week. I can sense some anxiety but, from past experience, once we all get there and they go from one activity to another, all worries will be forgotten. Right about dinner time they will remember home and family and might become a little worried. Mrs. Schoengarth and I will watch for indications of homesickness so we can offer comfort and reassurance. Generally after the students have eaten and the activities build up again, they gladly settle into their sleeping bags and fall asleep fairly quickly.

### Passport Check Day:

We will be back from Pioneer Farm in plenty of time to eat, rest, and participate in the Passport Check. I will review with the students prior to our check time and they will also have the opportunity to increase their score next Friday on the re-check day.

### What Are We Doing Now?

- Many of the students are close to completing the rough draft of their sea life report. They are learning how to use transitional words or phrases to move from one paragraph to the next, as well as how to write an enticing opening to their report - "the hook."
- Next week we will review our current math chapter on graphs and probability and test later in the next week. From there we will go on to measurement. If your child is stuck on the multiplication facts 0-9, please help them practice at home. You may request a blank sheet and do an additional 2 minute timing each evening.
- We are also wrapping up our current social studies unit on the people of America. The students will take an essay test consisting of one question. I will be looking for in-depth, thoughtful responses. Next week the students will help me write a comprehensive outline of what they have learned during this unit. They will be able to use this

outline when they take the test.

- Spelling will again be included in our week now that our ITBS testing is finished. Your child might need a lot of encouragement to pick this subject up again.
- The science water unit is going well. Students made their own thermometer this week, and discussed the difference in density between warm and cold water. Next week they will further explore density with experiments on ice.
- In language arts we are enjoying the richness of folktales from around the world. So far we have read a tale from Australia, a trickster tale from Africa, fables by Aesop, and a story from Rudyard Kipling's Just So Tales.
- We have all missed our weekly Spanish lessons due to testing, but Maestra Lourdes will return to us this coming week for a Cinco de Mayo celebration.
- Finally, we continue to create beautiful works of art with the help of Mrs. Church, Mrs. Armstrong, and Mrs. Welin. Our current art pieces are based on Chinese dry brush painting, African Adire cloth, and Aboriginal "dot" painting. All of our artwork and our published written material will be available for your appreciation during our annual Artist and Author's Fair on June 7<sup>th</sup>. So please save the day and plan to bring friends and family.

### Upcoming Tests:

- ★ Music Test on Beethoven – Mon., May 3.
- ★ Math Test – Thu., May 6.

### Upcoming events...

- **Pioneer Farm** – Thu., & Fri., April 29 & 30.
- **May Crowning & Maypole** – Fri., May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9am. Reception for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, family, and friends immediately following.
- **Olympia Junior Programs Play** – Tue., May 11.
- **Conferences** – Thu. & Fri., May 13 & 14.

Happy Easter Season,  
Sandra Needham

