

3rd Grade Language Arts Family Letter
2nd Nine Weeks
Reading to Learn & The Art of Information Writing

Dear Third Grade Families,

Our Focus

Our unit focus in reading will be learning to read nonfiction texts. In reading nonfiction, we learn that all nonfiction texts are teaching us about something and we are gaining information about a specific topic. We often refer to them as informational texts. We will focus on specific skills to help us understand Informational texts such as identifying the Main Idea with supporting details, synthesizing information to make meaning, and summarizing information. We will also focus on identifying unknown words and looking for context clues to help support our learning.

In writing, students will begin by writing an informational book about a topic they are an expert on. We will teach different strategies to add to their writing to help support readers in understanding their text. We will also look at adding text features such as a table of contents, diagrams, labels, and timelines to our writing to help support our topic. Students will think about questions that readers may have about their topic and try to answer them in their writing.

Instructional Approach

Readers will grow in knowledge as they pay attention to details, put parts of text together, and ask questions about texts. They will work to tackle both tricky word work and vocabulary development needed to navigate nonfiction text. Readers will also build knowledge as they read topic sets of texts, comparing, contrasting, and connecting information. Writers will write different kinds of nonfiction books to support transfer and independence. Writers will consider their audience as they are given lots of opportunities for elaboration and revision.

Family Support

You can help your child in several ways.

- Engage in discussion with your child about his/her reading.
- Ask your child what they are reading about and what they are learning about that topic.
- Generate ideas for writing: places you've been, sports, topics studied, things they like to do, celebrations, holidays, ect.
- Share connections made from what they are learning about to other texts and real life.
- Ask your child questions that will help clarify the details of his or her stories.
- Encourage your child to read his writing aloud, and listen without interrupting.

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team