



## THIRD GRADE OVERVIEW

November 10, 2010

Here is an overview of what the third grade students have been working on since the beginning of the school year.



**SPELLING:** "Foundations" is our spelling program. It emphasizes word structure, spelling and vocabulary. We have completed the first 2 units in this program and are finishing the third unit. Unit 1 concepts included closed syllable concepts, glued sounds (all, an, am, ng/nk), closed syllable exceptions (olt, old, ost, ind, ild), and ck and tch spelling. Unit 2 concepts included suffix review, forming plurals with -s and -es, sound of -ed (/ed/, /d/, /t/) and the 1-1-1 spelling rule (doubling a consonant when adding a vowel suffix). Unit 3 concepts included vowel-consonant-e syllables, spelling of /k/ in a v-e syllable, s saying /z/ between two vowels, and the division and spelling of multisyllabic words.

**MATH:** "Everyday Mathematics" is our mathematics program. We have completed units 1, 2 and 5. The focus of Unit 1 was to explore patterns on number grids, to review telling time, measuring lengths, using calculators, data concepts, and making predictions based on data and to give equivalent names for numbers. The focus of Unit 2 was to review fact families and number families, to solve "What's My Rule?" problems, to use diagrams to help solve number stories and to review algorithms for addition and subtraction. The focus of Unit 5 was to extend previous lessons on the base-ten place-value system to whole numbers through millions and to decimals through thousandths, to apply these concepts to reading, writing, comparing and ordering whole numbers and decimals, and to use whole numbers and decimals in real-life contexts.

We will begin modeling the expectations of the problem-solving standard and begin to complete some "Portfolio" problems together.

**CURSIVE:** "Handwriting Without Tears" is our handwriting program. It has a developmental teaching order that starts with letters that are similar to printing and also letters with similar strokes are grouped together. Our next group of letters is the tricky "tow truck letters" (o, w, b, v). Since they do not end at the baseline, they can cause a lot frustration initially which requires a lot of practice to master.

**SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES:** We have been focusing on community building, citizenship, and weather. We will do a brief study of Thanksgiving before the holiday break. When we come back from Thanksgiving break we will be combining our literature unit with social studies to discover "Holiday Celebrations Around the World." We will be incorporating map skills into our study of the different cultures.

**WRITING:** This year the whole school has implemented the "6-Traits" writing program. The six traits of writing include:

- **IDEAS:** The heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, with details that enrich and develop that theme.
- **ORGANIZATION:** The internal structure, the thread of central meaning, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas.
- **VOICE:** The unique perspective of the writer is evident in the piece through the use of compelling ideas, engaging language, and revealing details.
- **WORD CHOICE:** The use of rich, colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.
- **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** The rhythm and flow of the language, the sound of word patterns, the way in which the writing plays to the ear, not just to the eye.
- **CONVENTIONS:** The mechanical correctness of the piece: spelling, grammar and usage, paragraphing, use of capitals and punctuation.

We have been examining the ideas and organization components of the program.

**LITERACY:** Each literary unit we have done has included both vocabulary and comprehension components.

Book/Theme	Focus
<u>The Bee Tree</u>	sequencing, inference
<u>Donovan's Word Jar</u>	prediction, problem & solution
<u>Canada Geese Quilt</u>	character traits
Weather	fact and opinion, text features
<u>Sarah, Plain and Tall</u>	setting, compare & contrast

