



This Week in Third Grade...

Math: Last week students received their end of Chapter 3 Math Test. Students did the most beautiful job on this chapter test. All students took their tests home on Friday! This week we will be embarking on a new math unit which is geometry concepts as well as area, forming rectangular arrays, interpreting area model, etc. Many differentiated area activities will take place this week involving individual, partner pair, kinesthetic activities and tile activities that put area into a real world context for the students. In addition, please be sure your student is still practicing their multiplication facts as this is essential for fluency in this particular unit.

Reading: Last week, we finished *Ramona Quimby Age 8*. Students did a lovely job answering text dependent questions, applying vocabulary, thinking about dynamic characters as well as themes throughout. We will begin Monday with a brief review of the final Chapter of *Ramona Quimby*. This week is supposed to be a week of skills review tests as it marks the end of our first curriculum book. Students will be taking their tests in the mornings. However, we will be reading new literature this week as well. In preparation for Martin Luther King Day, our theme for this week will be Equal Rights. We will be reading a series of three books and analyzing across all three as we learn about the Children's March as well as *Separate is Not Equal* and finally *Youth Marcher*. These selections are complex picture books that are dense, use a lot of excellent vocabulary and really portray this time period in a thought-provoking way.

Grammar: Last week, we continued to review parts of speech and all grammar concepts learned throughout this point. Our target for this week will be to continue to discuss figurative language and how it appears and lends itself inside fiction as well as poetry. In addition, we will be moving on and beginning our unit on adjectives, types of adjectives, order of adjectives and so forth. Students will be identifying adjectives as well as simultaneously reviewing compound versus complex sentences this week.

Writing/ Handwriting: Students will begin capital letters this upcoming week as we continue to review cursive lowercase letters but also begin our quest to conquer capital letters successfully as well. Our current writing project takes a brief break from academic writing. Before we move into Problem and Solution writing specifically, students are currently working on a creative writing project based off of the book "Snowy Day" as well as the complex poetry book analyzed last week entitled "A Poem for Peter." We have discussed the Civil Rights movement in the 1960's as well as the significance of the character "Peter" in this particular story. In addition, we spent much time last week talking about biases and stereotypes within children's literature. Students are currently recreating their own "Snowy Day" story by developing a character that is not usually seen within children's literature. After analyzing all of the stereotypes that usually go along with this "particular" character, students will work on rewriting their snowy day story in a way that shatters these common stereotypes. Character development will occur this week as will the plot of the story and the significant moments in which stereotypes will be challenged. Our Conclusion of our "Snowy Day" piece will take place this week as we spend time writing, revising and thinking about sentence structure and varying word beginning throughout.

Social Studies: One more concluding day of Social Studies will take place this coming Monday. However, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be dedicated to beginning our Physical Science Unit as students participate in a hands on group activity where they are asked to sort many different objects and materials according to their physical properties. In addition, we will discuss states and phases of matter on Thursday as we visit the small lab for an inquiry based activity



Dear Families,

Last week was an action packed week full of math review and math tests, a novel study and the conclusion of our Ellis Island Unit. We look forward to diving into another busy but fulfilling week within the third grade classroom! We will have a four-day week as Friday is a day off for the students as it marks the end of a quarter. Please be on the lookout for a brief email update about your student and our specific areas of growth and focus within the classroom! Just a reminder that you may find all newsletters posted on my site ms.amoscato.com. You can access the newsletter this week by clicking on the Third Grade tab on the top of my website. Then, hovering over with your cursor and clicking on "newsletters."

In addition, spelling words for this week I have posted on spelling city: The spelling words we are learning are our high frequency review word list:

<https://www.spellingcity.com/view-spelling->

Upcoming Tests

Reading: Skills tests throughout the week

Spelling- Test Thursday

Math- Quick Checks

Don't ask what the world needs
Ask what makes you come alive
and go and do that
because what the world needs is people
who have come alive - Howard Thurman