

3rd Grade Happenings

Devin Homme • Sunday, Dec 6 at 9:21 PM • **3rd Grade - Devin**

Hi Everyone,

It's been a while since I wrote just to the original crew. So, hello! I miss seeing all your faces at pick-up and drop-off (does anyone else ever think of that old radio show Car Talk when you hear that? Sorry sidetracked). And I miss your kids faces, too. Promise :) But in all seriousness, we will see this year through together as a community, one way or another. Whether we are on Zoom or at school, **my main goal as a teacher this year is to keep as much joy as possible in their education and in their lives.** I just wanted to remind you of that, as I know that it can be hard to find a lot of joy as read the news and hear about... well, so many things.

Ok, onto an update on what's been going on in third grade...

In math, we wrapped up our first multiplication unit and even did an assessment over Zoom (which is as difficult as it sounds). But we did it! **Ask your kid about ratio tables** or how many legs would be at an elephant's birthday party.

In literacy, we continued to work on our spelling patterns through some word work and word play. We even created stories/poems using as many words with the long o sound as possible. Some were pretttty out there. We continued our breakout room book clubs, as well as our deep dive into **paragraph writing. Ask your kid about hamburgers and why in the world we talk about them when it comes to paragraph (and essay) writing.**

And if they prefer a veggie burger or fried chicken sandwich, I get it. Me too sometimes. We also, of course, continued to craft our story plays. We worked on transitioning between two scenes in a story and how to keep a reader engaged. Some stories are starting to get pretty good, at least from the bits I've been able to see. **Ask your kid about their story play and see if they've shifted from their original ideas or not.**

In science we began our first foray into **magnetism**, which is such a fun little unit that sets the stage for our bigger and more comprehensive electricity unit in the spring. So far we have experimented with how magnets can repel or attract, and learned a little about north poles and south poles. Soon we'll be looking further into magnetic fields while we do more hands-on experiments. **Ask your kid about making their object move. Also, if you're looking for a Hanukkah/Christmas/New Years gift, maybe get them some strong magnets?? They're super fun and useful for many reasons.**

In our studies of California, everyone continued to do more research on their California research topic. From Disneyland to Alcatraz, we have a great variety of topics. **Starting next Wednesday (the 16th), we will have kids share out their projects with the group.** This week we will be working hard on them in preparation for their share-outs. **Ask your kid about their topic, and if they've learned any facts that they just couldn't believe.** We will also be finishing up their California Regions Flipbooks soon, as they finish adding more information and creativity to each page. They're starting to look really cool.

One very important part of our third grade curriculum will be ramping up more in the next couple weeks of school, and will continue on after winter break. That is our study of Native Californians, and the past, present, and future of Indigenous people right here in the Bay Area, and beyond. We've

begun discussing the Shellmounds, and they have created some art with Lisa in conjunction with these conversations. We have talked about the Ohlone land that we live on, and how it's changed over the years. And we've started thinking about how people can be a part of the current fight for Native rights. **Ask your kid about their art project with Lisa about shellmounds, or if they can remember what shellmounds were used as.**

Ok, my note is getting long, and the weekend is slowly ending. I hope you got a chance to spend some time outdoors this weekend in some form or another. I had a birthday on Friday, and yesterday I played tennis for about the fifth time in my life and I have to say.... I kinda liked it! My life as a soccer player was actually pretty helpful with tennis :)

Take care everyone.

Best,

Devin