

THIRD GRADE TRIBUNE

Young Explorers

In English class, the third-graders have gone back in time to the 1700's, where Matt Hallowell fights for his life in the wilderness in Elizabeth George Speare's book, *The Sign of the Beaver*. Finding it troublesome to imagine what it would be like without parents to take care of them, the third-graders sympathize with this main character, and are on his side when some exciting encounters cause conflicts! The third-grade also worked hard on their English curricular week projects, designing their own set for a stage on Broadway, and writing scripts depicting a scene from a book previously read in class. Their passion and creativity always fill the air in the classroom!

Last quarter, the third-graders turned in their fabulous Math Week Projects. The theme this year revolved around the all-time favorite movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. The third-graders went with the theme, "Click Three Times," creating and displaying impressive three-step story problems. The students also had the chance to study graphing and functions. Some of this material was new to them, but they learned it so well that they will be able to pick it right up next year when they encounter the same concepts in greater depth.

While weekly challenges remain a student favorite, some exciting topics are on the horizon for the third-graders: multi-digit multiplication and division. It would be beneficial to break out those flash cards or computer games to review multiplication and division facts. Graph paper will also be a great help to keep columns lined up just right! Students have also been participating in the Continental Math League Contest this year. In this contest, students are given thirty minutes to complete six, higher-level thinking questions. They are doing an excellent job, and the students with the highest scores will be given a special award at the end of the year!

Be sure to check out the monthly "Math and Science Connection" newsletter (Intermediate Edition) that is sent home with the students at the beginning of every month. There are many fascinating and fun activities that can be done at home—so be sure to read and share it with the whole family!

Last quarter, the third-graders became budding Egyptologists. They studied the kings of the Old Kingdom and took a virtual walk through Khafre's famous pyramid at Giza. They traveled to Baltimore to visit the amazing collection of Egyptian artifacts at the Walters Art Museum. Some of their favorite objects included two large statues of Sekmet, several beautifully painted coffins, and a small bronze statue of Osiris. While at the museum, the children also enjoyed using a stylus and ink to write hieroglyphs on a piece of actual papyrus!

The second quarter also brought the much-anticipated, annual Egyptian Day celebration. The children came to school in wonderfully creative costumes and took part in a variety of subject-related activities, including constructing a mummy and sarcophagus, designing a senet board, and painting a colorful scarab. They also tried some delicious new foods at the Egyptian feast, including cous cous, ful medames, and hummus. Students are continuing their study of Egypt in the third quarter as they explore the halls of Egyptian temples and meet some of the famous rulers of ancient Egypt.

Suggested Website: Visit the website of the Walters Art Museum to play games and discover some of the incredible objects the children see on the field trip! <http://thewalters.org/>

The third-graders are progressing very nicely in French class. They recently mastered the different components of a birthday party invitation in French and created original invitations as a class project. It was wonderful to see their invitations displayed in the hallways during the Westminster French weeks, "La France en fête!" In addition, the students are becoming familiar with some basic French grammar concepts, including masculine and feminine nouns and articles, adjective agreement, and basic sentence structure. They have also covered a range of vocabulary topics, reinforcing their newly acquired vocabulary through songs, classroom games, and interactive StarBoard activities. *Poursuivez dans cette voie*, third grade!

Earth Science began in the second quarter, and third graders recently wrapped up their exploration of the solar system. They have truly enjoyed learning facts about each planet and comparing them with each other. The students completed a lab using scale models of the planets and compared their sizes and their distances from the sun. Enriching their studies was an October field trip to the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. An exhibit entitled "1001 Inventions" focused on inventions contributed by ancient Middle Eastern civilizations. One area of the exhibit was centered on the universe, and the children were amazed to discover how much these ancient people knew about the universe and how advanced were the tools they used to study it.

The third quarter has brought the study of the physical world. Topics include measuring matter and being able to describe both its chemical and physical properties. Third-graders will be exploring what happens to matter when it is combined in different ways. The students are looking forward to learning more about electricity, magnets, forces and motion, and they will conclude the quarter with an exploration of simple machines.



Learning about different cultures at the National Geographic Museum



Third-graders are fascinated by French culture.

“Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live, as well as strong to think.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson