



Third Grade Newsletter

April 2024

Important Dates

Wednesday, April 3rd - Return from Spring Break

Thursday, April 4th – Econ Fair prototypes due

Tuesday, April 9th – Early dismissal day

Tuesday, April 16th – Report Cards go home

April 16th - 19th - ELA MCAP test (see additional information below)

Thursday, April 18th - report cards are distributed

Friday, April 26th – field trip to Carroll County Historical Society and Union Mills

Tuesday, April 30th – Spring Picture Day

Reminders

Please make sure your child brings a jacket or sweatshirt to school. Students will be outside for recess on most days.

Please continue to monitor your child's pencil pouch for any needed supplies.

Spring is here and so are spring allergies! We would appreciate donations of tissues!

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Over the next two months, students in grades three, four and five will participate in MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) for state-wide testing in math and reading. This computer based, standardized assessment is administered to all 3rd-5th graders in Maryland. The MCAP assessments in ELA and Math focus on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. The Math assessment consists of four sessions each approximately 40 minutes in length. The ELA assessment consists of four sessions each approximately 70 minutes in length. More information regarding MCAP assessments in math and ELA can be found: [Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](http://marylandpublicschools.org).

There is nothing your child can study to prepare for this assessment other than get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast and do his/her best. Students will complete one session each day on their assigned testing date (schedule below). If a student is absent, we will work with teachers to make up the missed sessions.

What are we learning?

Math

This month in math we will be finishing up our final Multiplication, Division and Area Unit. Our next unit is Geometry and Measurement where we will be mostly focusing on quadrilaterals. See attached parent letter and for more information.

Science

In Science, we will wrap up our Matter and Its Interactions unit and will begin our Inheritance of Traits Unit. Please see attached parent letter for more information.

Humanities

In Humanities, we will be working on Economics. We will learn about Economics and begin preparing for ECON FAIR! We will need many volunteers for production days and the actual fair day. If you are not Volunteer Trained, now is the time to get that done so you are ready! All proceeds from the Econ Fair are donated to local charities. We have in past years also purchased a “Buddy Bench” for the playground. Information about the Econ Fair went home already. Prototypes are due April 4. ONLY ONE PROTOTYPE NEEDS TO BE MADE. Please turn in ONE prototype and the forms on the due date.

Stay in Touch!

Please reach out to your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns!

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THIRD GRADE MATHEMATICS – Unit 7

Dear Parents,

During this unit, students will be describing, analyzing, and comparing quadrilaterals. They will classify the quadrilaterals by their sides and angles, and connect these attributes with definitions of them. Students will also recognize area and perimeter as an attribute of two dimensional regions and apply prior work with these concepts to solve problems.

SHAPES AND MEASUREMENT

Students need to:

- Understand that shapes in different categories (e.g., rhombuses, rectangles, and others) may share attributes (e.g., having four sides), and that the shared attributes can define a larger category (e.g., quadrilaterals). Recognize rhombuses, rectangles, and squares as examples of quadrilaterals, and draw examples of quadrilaterals that do not belong to any of these subcategories.
- Solve real world and mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding the perimeter given the side lengths, finding an unknown side length, and exhibiting rectangles with the same perimeter and different areas or with the same area and different perimeters.

KEY VOCABULARY

area: the number of square units needed to cover its surface

congruent: equal in size (length, angle, etc.)

parallel sides: two sides that when measured are equally distant

perimeter: the total length of a shapes boundary

quadrilateral: a polygon with four sides

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

- Find examples of quadrilaterals around your home. Have your child describe the attributes of the quadrilaterals found. Challenge your child to use the terms congruent, parallel sides, and square corners in his/her description.
- Find the perimeter of a room, table, or countertop in your home by: 1. Sketching the object(s). 2. Measuring the sides to the nearest inch. 3. Recording the measurements. 4. Finding the sum of the measurements.
- Find three different sized books. Measure and record the length and width of each book. Record the measurements and use multiplication to calculate the area.
- Play "20 Questions" with quadrilaterals. Sit back-to-back with your child. Have your child draw a quadrilateral on a piece of paper. You ask questions regarding the shape while your child answers "yes" or "no" until you are able to name the shape. (Ex. Does the shape have 4 square corners? Does the shape have 1 set of parallel sides?). You can then switch roles and have your child ask questions about a shape you draw.
- Have your child use Legos, blocks, post-its, etc. to build a floor plan for a house. Measure the length and width of each room. How much carpet would be needed for each room? How much trim would be needed for each room?

Online Activities:

Illuminations Shape Sorter

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=34>

Quadrilaterals

<http://www.xpmath.com/forums/arcade.php?do=play&gameid=84>

Students can explore the relationship between area and perimeter at the websites below:

<http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/AreaExplorer/>
http://www.mathplayground.com/area_perimeter.html



Third Grade Science

Matter and Its Interactions

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Third Grade during the study of matter and its interactions. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

Matter and Its Interactions

Students will be able to:

- classify materials based on their properties.
- create a model to describe matter is made of particles too small to be seen.
- determine the properties of a mystery solid and present evidence to support their claim.
- utilize the Engineering Design Process to design high quality playdough.
- determine whether the mixing of two or more substances results in new substances.

Key Vocabulary

Matter- material that has mass and takes up space

Properties – a characteristic or quality of a material that you can see, hear, smell, touch, taste, or measure.

Substance – the physical matter or material of which living things are made

Interaction– how something relates or influences another

Solid – a state of matter with a fixed volume and shape

Liquid – a state of matter with a fixed volume, but not a fixed shape

Gas –a state of matter with no fixed volume or shape

Discovery Education:

- Properties and States of Matter
- Describing Matter and Its Properties

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Use the Discovery Education links to learn more information.
- Be attentive to different types of matter all around you.
- Encourage your child to help prepare meals. Have them describe ingredients as different types of matter. What happens when you mix the ingredients? Can you separate the materials or is a new substance created?
- Look for examples of solids, liquids, and gases around your house.