

Ms. Klein's Third and Fourth Grade Newsletter

"Growing Together in Christ"

August 24, 2018

The students made it through their first full week of school, and they are doing well overall. The third graders really seemed to pick up on my routine and expectations very quickly, and a lot of them seem to be excited to read so that they can fill up their reading charts. Rocket Math also seems to be going well, and I think that they like getting a piece of candy and a sticker for their charts as well. I can tell that the fourth graders are very comfortable in the classroom already because they know me, and they know the classroom routine. However, some of them have missed some easy points on their papers already because they rush through them and make careless errors. Fourth grade will be harder this year because the material is more difficult, so it is important that they slow down and pay attention in class. They all got a sticker for their behavior charts this week because I was watching them play kickball one day at recess, and they did an excellent job of playing well together and solving problems quickly and efficiently. I have been updating grades on Option C. We are just beginning a new reading curriculum, and so far the students haven't had written work to complete. I will be looking for ways for them to receive points very soon.

I have included the results of the STAR test that your child took this week. I have also included their AR goals and reading ranges for this quarter. I am glad to see that most of them seem to be excited and motivated to read, so I hope that this keeps up.

The students are expected to read for at least 20 minutes every night, practice Rocket Math, and to practice their Spelling words for homework. Next week I will give them Mass parts to practice for the week of September 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are expected to practice their Mass parts at home as well. It is normal for third graders to have 30 minutes of homework every night and for fourth graders to have 40 minutes of homework every night. If your child seems to be spending a lot more time than that on homework every night, please let me know.

If you haven't signed up for Class Dojo yet, please feel free to do so! I will admit that utilizing technology is not my biggest strength, but I will do my best to keep you informed of what is happening in the classroom this year. It is a way for you to see what the kids are doing and learning about at school.

Here is what we did in the classroom this week:

**Religion-** We discussed Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah and the flood this week.

**Social Studies-** We discussed our country's geography, climate, resources, and Canada this week.

**English/Writing-** We worked on a few grammar problems this week for review, and the students also wrote in their own notebooks about topics that they chose on their own. We are just getting started with our writing curriculum, and they will be writing about various topics throughout the year.

**Reading-** I read several books to the students this week. The third graders listened to “Mrs. Nelson is Missing” and “Miss Nelson Has a Field Day.” The fourth graders listened to “A Bad Case of Stripes” and “The Old Woman Who Named Things.” They practiced a procedure that we will use a lot this year called “Turn to Your Partner. After I read parts of the story, they turn to their partners and talk about what is happening in the story. I also reread the books to them so that they could listen for details that they didn’t catch the first time. Rereading is an important reading strategy to use to improve comprehension.

**Spelling-** The third graders had spelling words with short and long “a” sounds while the fourth graders had spelling words that included consonant blends and two syllables.

**Math-** The third graders studied fact families, problems with missing addends, properties of addition, 2-digit addition and subtraction, and word problems that required them to choose the operation to solve them. The fourth graders studied problems that pertained to place value through the millions, benchmark numbers, and how to use a graph. They also took their first Math test of the year. The third graders were told not to stress out about it too much...they will be fine once they get used to taking them.

**Science-** We discussed cells, classifying living things, the plant kingdom, and how seed plants reproduce this week.

The students will have their Spelling and Math tests next Thursday since we won’t have school on Friday. Here are their spelling words for next week:

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- next, left, help, please, believe, many, very, been, seen, she, between, three, easy, sea, leave

4<sup>th</sup> Grade- attach, where, sandwich, change, watch, singer, slippery, spring, gather, these, thread, athlete, worth, thirsty, whisper, whistle, awhile, nowhere

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Grades will be updated often on OptionC.

Have a great weekend!

~Ms. Klein~