

GRADE 3 AND 4

FEB/MARCH NEWSLETTER

After our Christmas break, we all seem settled and back into the routine of school life and are highly involved in our studies

LITERACY

We started off the term looking at dictionary skills. Using a collection of dictionaries, work focused on developing skills such as noting features, locating words, ordering alphabetically and writing definitions.

We have now just completed a couple of weeks work on Non-fiction texts, relating to the oceans. Each child has created a non-fiction page on crabs and these are on display in our homeroom.



Their task was to organise their information in an appealing way that would make it easy for the reader to locate the facts. They did this by using features such as, labels, bullet points, text boxes, headings and sub headings, questions, underlining, bold fonts and colour. Great Job guys – they look pretty nippy to me!



We also read a wonderful story about whales called the whales song by Dyan Sheldon. This story evoked a lot of feelings about whales and we went on to research and write notes and descriptions about humpback whales. I would like thank Sarah for bringing in her whale DVD's. These really helped to bring the topic alive.

This week we will look at the story The Dragon Machine, by Helen Ward. This wonderful story with its stunning illustrations will encourage the children to use their imaginations. They will create a book review, character profile & write their own imaginative story.

For further upcoming literacy work, see the next page. Maybe you have some books, DVDs or knowledge to share on our future themes. Also, look out for information on our upcoming Book Week. Lots of events for you to become involved in!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Many happy returns to Richard who will be 9 on the 2nd of February and Etosha who will be 9 on the 28th.

There are also lots of birthdays coming up in March to celebrate:

Sarah will be 8 on the 10th, Kandace and Ben will be 8 and 9 respectively on the 13th and Luis will be 9 on the 26th.



POETRY

Our Poet of the week project is going well. So far we have looked at the work of 3 successful children's poets, John Foster, Sue Cowling and Brian Moses. At the start of each day, the children have enjoyed one of their poems along with finding out some information about the poets themselves and how they write. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly at school so not to miss our poem of the day.

Jade is organising a visit this week from a visiting poet who has written and published some poems inspired by our very own Grace Bay beach. Way to go, Jade!





FUTURE LITERACY THIS TERM

Dragon Poems

Dragons come in all shapes & sizes – & so do poems about them! The children will explore poetic style & structure, respond to content & write their own poems. 2 poems will act as stimulus for instructions for making a model dragon.

Professor Puffendorf's Secret Potions

This detailed telling of a classic cautionary tale will stimulate the children to create characters, describe effective settings while writing a story. They will also write instructions for potions.

Beware of Boys

Using this humorous book, the children will explore links to traditional stories & analyse characters. They will examine, plan & invent unusual fictional recipes, using key features to create ridiculous ingredients for Wolf Soup!

Animal Poetry, including classic poems

The children will read a range of poems, including some classics. They will work on sound patterns and imagery, exploring the use of metaphor and simile, figurative language and how language changes over time. They will recite poems and plan and write their own versions.

Puss in Boots/ Jamil's Clever Cat

These 2 versions of the same story will allow the children to compare styles & settings. They will write character portraits & tell their own tales using typical traditional story themes & language.

How to Look After Your Rabbit

On a topic of pet care, the children will compare 2 pet manuals about caring for rabbits. They will explore style, contents & usefulness, before making notes to create leaflets/posters of key info. Research will lead to writing instructions for how to care for a different pet.

P.E. KIT

In the interest of personal hygiene, please make sure that your child has both their P.E. kit and uniform with them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come dressed in P.E kit on Tuesdays and in school uniform on Thursdays.

NUMERACY

So far this term we have focused on ordering and rounding numbers, addition and subtraction and the measurement of time, mass and area. This week we move on to problem solving involving multiplication and division. Please note that the homework this week asks that you practice your timetables, but it is an area that needs constant revision and review over the year. A Grade 3 child should begin to know the 3 and 4 times tables this term. A Grade 4 child should know the 3 and 4 times tables off by heart and recall at speed and should be learning the 6 and 8 time table. Some good websites to practice these at home are:
<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/tm/tmgame/tgame2.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/megamaths/tables.html>
We will then move on to direction and angle, more ordering numbers, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and handling data.

LIBRARY

Volunteers will be operating extra library times in the near future and we have a growing collection of non-fiction titles to share. Please encourage your child to borrow more library books. Maybe you could create a special library book time at home when you read to your child. Don't expect your child to always read. There is a lot to learn by browsing and looking at the pictures. Remember that enjoyment and interest is the key.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to our PTA Rep, Telina, for attending the PTA meeting last week. There are plenty of events coming up to help organise and support so I will thank you all in advance of your help.

Thanks to everyone who helped support the Tsunami efforts both at school and at the ballpark. It was great to see so many families and friends out at the ballpark to watch the ceremony and games. Well done to all the children for making and the placards and especially to those who held them during the poignant minute's silence.