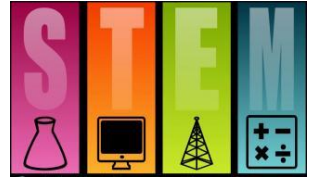


# Brantley3rd Grade Classroom News

[www.mrbrantley.weebly.com](http://www.mrbrantley.weebly.com)



## Third Grade: News / Curriculum

**Date:** 02-08-2013

**Reading:** Antarctic Ice

**Focus Skills:** *Sequence*

**Spelling Unit:** 21 (see below)

**Vocabulary Lesson #21:** *conserved, strict, absence, shelters, permanently, drifts, scarce, dim, harsh, bleak*

**Math:**

Topic 6:

3 as a Factor, 6-2 4 as a Factor, 6-3 6 and 7 as Factors, 6-4 8 as a Factor, 6-5 11 and 12 as Factors, 6-6 Multiplying with 3 Factors, 6-7 Problem Solving: Multiple-Step

**Science / Social Studies:**

- Time Life for Kids & Science Weekly
- Minetest structure projects
- Robot programming – LEGO robotics & Sphero

**Upcoming Events:**

- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL (Snow Makeup)

Hello Parents,

Yet another busy week has slipped by with great speed and haste. It would seem that the busier we are and with increased amounts of work, time once again becomes our greatest enemy.

This week has held several busy days, and many assignments and projects. We completed theme #3 in our reading series and this brought on an end of theme assessment. Student worked on this assessment throughout the first several days of the week. This included many items, multiple choice questions, and three essay questions. The scoring of the essay questions was reliant on me logging into ThinkCentral and reviewing each question. This process was done in one-on-one conferences with each student. After reviewing the directions and expectations each item was scored. Often I was more generous with points than the student.

The class has begun their research on Iditarod mushers and teams. This has been just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Next the students will create trading cards for one of their two teams. Each student has chosen two teams, one male musher, one female musher. The goal will be for each student to follow their musher throughout the first week of the Iditarod. As is always the case, our spring break overlaps with the ending of the Iditarod race. The average race time for the leading five to ten race teams is approximately 5-6 days. The race itself lasts roughly 15 days...so maybe there will be a couple final racers sliding into Nome after our break. The students are already excited about the race and their teams. We will watch the start and track our racers throughout the week prior to break...but that will leave many students looking for internet access over the break (sorry!). This project is terribly fun in how it ties so much of history, geography, technology, animals, survival, math, strategy, core values, real sportsmanship and science. I hope that as your child shares or continues to research and follow racers from home that you enjoy some of the connections to the "Last Great Race".

Next week will bring continued Iditarod work, research, ISTEP practice and even a fun project making a model dog sled with a full team of dogs. This past week we worked on writing and following the format of the ISTEP essay writing model. Students wrote based on ISTEP prompts from years past. So far everyone is doing very well and seems to be finding their creative muse and creating good quality stories. As I keep telling the class...if you'll write as detailed as you tell stories...you will likely create something great!...just as long as they stay focused on the prompt!!

A discovery with disappointing repercussions was made this week. SpellingCity has decided to change their online access for free customers and they no longer allow free access to the vocabulary games. These were important to many students as a study tool. I have expressed my disappointment in their decision and their timing in the middle of a school year...but I doubt I will hear anything or be given any options other than to purchase membership. I have spent considerable time in the evening researching alternatives for students to utilize through the end of this year...my attempt to band-aid the situation...I have found one possible band-aid. [www.bigiqkids.com](http://www.bigiqkids.com). At the login page use the

member name "brantleyd" and the password for the student account (your child should know this...I'll include in email...not on the blog). I have added lists for 21-25. If this proves useful and students get the review they need...I'll add the rest of the lists for the conclusion of the year. This week has been frustrating for several students...and the dictionaries have really gotten a workout...I wish I could change the situation, but it has been a learning lesson for us all.

I hope that everyone finds time to rest and relax this weekend.

**Have a great weekend!!**

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# Spelling List # 21

## Spelling List

REVIEW... PRETEST on Monday,  
Friday Test...study study study!!!

1. study

2. summer

3. such

4. true

5. due

6. who

7. move

8. truck

9. uncle

10. Sunday

11. glue

12. clue

13. lose

14. movie

15. dumped

16. clumsy

17. gruesome

18. whoever

