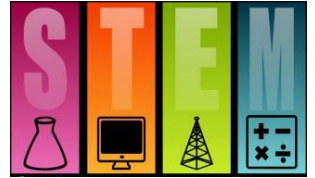


Brantley3rd Grade Classroom News

www.mrbrantley.weebly.com



Third Grade: News / Curriculum

Date: 03-01-2013

Reading: Reading from other sources...NO NEW STORY

Focus Skills: Review

Spelling Unit: Review – NO NEW LIST

Vocabulary Lesson #: Review – NO NEW LIST

Math:

Topic 9: Patterns and Relationships

Review Tuesday afternoon/Wednesday morning

Quiz Wednesday - Friday

Science / Social Studies:

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

Upcoming Events:

- March 4th – 8th ISTEP WINDOW
- March 11th-15: **Spring Break**
- March 18th-20th: IREAD-3

Dear Parents,

****Attached please find my letter regarding ISTEP****

I won't repeat too much, but please assure your child that ISTEP is just another test.

We will be taking ISTEP and that will occupy a couple hours of our week...but that leaves approximately 18 hours of amazing learning time for the week. We will enjoy Iditarod race viewing and checkpoint data logging and many videos of the ceremonial start, the restart and checkpoints. This will occupy a fair bit of time...but there's MORE!! We have begun the Lego NXT programming experience...and that is a tough fire to squelch. We will be programming programming programming!!...but that's still not ALL!!!

Students will have time for reading...and hopefully some book projects. I have every intention of driving at least two book projects in class next week. There will be time to try and relax and read. I know that for many that have been enjoying the PowerPoint book projects that this will become a possibility.

Last two items for next week will be a new fun Minetest project...and a possible radio project. Students will work on understanding volume and capacity. Much to the dismay of many students this will be volume/capacity of water...not lava ☺

I have continued to encourage students to work on their book projects. There are still MANY that have not completed enough projects. These projects have been a known from the beginning of the nine weeks. Expectations have been posted on the classroom site:

<http://mrbrantley.weebly.com/book-projects.html>)

PLEASE help your child get these book projects done!!!

Have a great weekend!!

<http://www.wl.k12.in.us/cumberland/classrooms/brantleyd/>

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Mr. Brantley

(765) 464-3212



Mr. Brantley

Parents,

In my haste yesterday to get a schedule out to you I believe I left out some important information.

We will be starting ISTEP this Friday and continuing Monday and Tuesday.

We will be taking the IREAD-3 assessment immediately following Spring Break (so PLEASE let me know if you will be returning late!!)

What I left out of the earlier email was that these two weeks will be a slightly different than normal. That means that we will postpone reading new stories, new vocabulary, and new spelling until the 2nd week following spring break.

That **DOES NOT** mean that we will not be working and learning next week or the week after spring break. In fact there are several fun research projects with Iditarod and math that will be done during these weeks, self-selected reading and journaling, and probably robotics and programming as well. The research will be completed in class in small groups. Math will be the completion of topic #9 and the topic quiz done prior to break (most students are already done with the normal chapter work)

ISTEP has many urban myths and tall tales told in conjunction with its ties to the state level testing. This is just another test. It does not, by itself, determine the fate of your child. I have been very direct and honest with the class...IT'S JUST ANOTHER TEST!! We have had heavier weight and longer tests on ThinkCentral and/or Envision Math. **IT'S JUST ANOTHER TEST!!!** We have a FULL week next week and I have every intention of using that time wisely and for the furthering of your child's education. The fact that ISTEP will take up about 2.5 hours of the total week...it's just another test.

Please help your child get good rest and eat normally this weekend and next Monday and Tuesday. Sometimes parents feel that ISTEP warrants a BIG BREAKFAST to supply extra brain power, etc. etc. This can be a great thing, but it also adds the pressure of marking the day as abnormal. Be supportive, try to help your child run a normal morning and get to school prepared as they would be normally. I have every confidence that your children will do a good job. They have talked at length about their fears and what issues have them concerned...and to a great degree I think we have sorted out many if not all the biggest and even the lesser concerns. It's just another test...and that is the way I truly hope that the class sees it, tackles it with their normal effort and doesn't turn everything inside out and upside down...that's when confusion and mistakes run rampant.

Thank you for reading...and please know that I am doing everything to prepare but also calm this class. I know their abilities and just want them to be themselves and show that ability on the ISTEP.

Mr. David Brantley
Third Grade Teacher
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