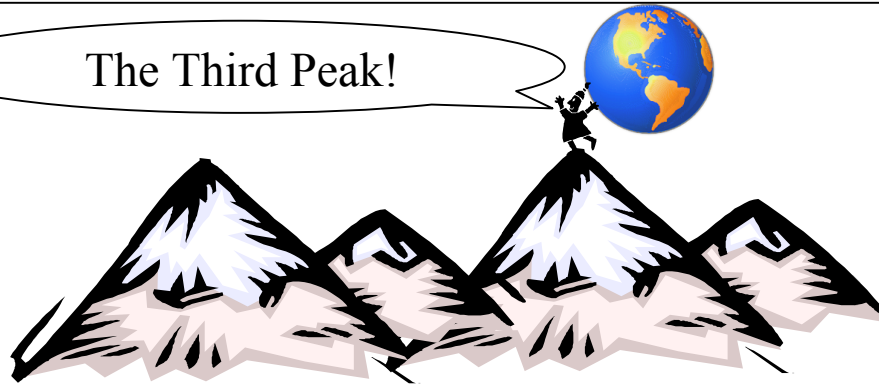


The Third Peak!



Dear Families,

Here's our first newsletter of the year! We publish these letters twice a month. We are diving into the new third grade routines! Students are working hard, and we are getting into a more regular schedule.

In Math, students have been working on the first unit which is a **review** of various topics from second grade. We have been practicing time, money, and interpreting data, to name just a few of the subjects. Our next unit focuses on addition and subtraction. If your child does not know their basic addition and subtraction facts well, please help us by reviewing them at home.

Teachers have been busy with reading assessments for each student. As a class, we are working on reading comprehension by thinking about stories. Soon we will be talking about connecting our reading to ourselves, other books, and things in the world. By thinking about these connections, the children have better **comprehension** of the books they are reading. Guided reading groups will begin in the next few weeks.

In Writer's Workshop, we have collected many great ideas for writing. The class is using them for future story starters. Our new writing program, Being a Writer, uses research-based instruction to teach writing with support for students' social and ethical development. Throughout the year, we will focus on the writing process, genre, and craft with an emphasis on skills and conventions. This program correlates closely with the 6-Traits Writing Program that our school has used in the past.

Our Mapping unit has been a lot of fun. Our **Big Idea** says that "the world is organized into systems." All of our activities and lessons fit into this theme. The students have been reviewing continents, oceans, compass directions, and mapping skills including legends and symbols. They have also learned about hemispheres and how the

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Earth is divided by invisible lines of longitude and latitude. Students learned to use the index of an Atlas to find information. Our next project is a series of three maps of Colorado. The final map, a tourist map, will be completed independently to demonstrate their newly acquired cartography skills.

Each week, we will have a Class Meeting. This week, both classes went over how to use the Peace Place to solve problems. Students use the following steps and take turns: 1) What happened? 2) How do you feel? 3) What do you need? 4) Can you agree? We will continue to practice using the Peace Place so that students feel comfortable.

We enjoyed seeing so many faces at Back-to-School Night. We are finishing up volunteer schedules and will be contacting you next week. If you have not returned your volunteer information form, we would love to get you on the schedule!

Homework each night consists of 25 minutes of Reading, the Math assignment, and Word Work (this will begin next week). Each night, your child should be completing the math homework. Please check for accuracy and initial the top. We will collect these at the end of each unit.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. We are really enjoying getting to know them!

Sincerely,
Kimi Riter and Sara Weatherley



Upcoming Events

- Sept. 7 – Labor Day – No School
- Sept. 18 – Professional Day – No school for students
- Sept. 30 – Math Night (details coming)