

## The Third Peak!



Dear Families,

Time is flying; it's hard to believe that September is almost over!

In Math, students just completed an assessment last week for Unit 1. In the Math Homelink books, please read the beginning of Unit 2 Parent Letter. It contains information about the unit and helpful ideas for supporting your child. The next unit is focused on addition and subtraction. We have worked on extensions to the basic facts as well as in –and-out boxes. If students do not know their basic facts well, practicing for five minutes each night will make a big difference.

Students also began working in their leveled reading groups. We have been using National Geographic kid's level magazines to work with non-fiction and short stories. In addition, we have been talking about text-to-self connections with books. This helps students comprehend their books and think more deeply about what they are reading. During the literacy block, students work on other assignments when their groups are not meeting with a teacher. There is a growing expectation that they will be able to work independently during this time.

In Writer's Workshop, we have been using literature to help gather ideas for our own writing. Students have time to work on stories in their Writer's Notebooks. We have been sharing what we write with partners and asking questions to get ideas for more details. We have been working on the Steps of the Writing Process as well. The kids will be learning the importance of revision and editing in the writing process.

The last few weeks were busy with Rivers of the World. The children used information to gather basic facts such as the source, length, mouth, and important cities along their rivers. The information that they gathered became part of their river map. They incorporated map skills including compass rose, map key, and scale in their work. These will be on display in our hallways for the next few weeks.

September 25, 2009

The High Peaks Science Fair is scheduled for the first week in November. The information packets went home today. Third graders are **required** to complete a project at home. These experiments can be quite simple at a third grade level. There is no specific topic requirement, but the project does need to use the scientific method. We will be doing a few experiments in class to help students get familiar with the scientific method. Students will need to turn in a project proposal, so that we know they are on the right track with their experiment. We want to emphasize the value of keeping projects simple and something that your child learns but also understands.

The kids have been demonstrating third grade responsibility with the home/school folders, math homework, and Word Books. A few students keep forgetting the parent signature. There are rewards at the end of the week for this to encourage them to get it.

Thanks for all your support. We couldn't do it without you! Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,  
Kimi Riter and Sara Weatherley



### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 30th - Parent Math Night 6:30-7:30 in the cafeteria
- October 7th - International Walk to School Day
- October 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:00-7:30 ED Team Community Meeting
- October 13th - Picture retakes
- October 19 - 22th Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences