

Grade 3 at Ellis School

Home-School Connection

Third grade is a pivotal year for your child! By the end of the year, third graders should be learning to read with fluency and comprehension so that they can successfully use reading skills for learning. During this year children shift from learning how to read to using their reading skills to learn. In mathematics, your child will be working extensively with multiplication and learn that division is the reciprocal skill. Students will develop an understanding of fractions all of which are building blocks for other life skills. They continue to work with numbers and operations and specifically understanding place value. Science and social studies are addressed and reinforced within the framework of the Literacy program. The focus is on inferential thinking.

Socially your child is becoming more independent and responsible and families can help us foster these skills. Developing good work habits continues to be important. Third graders are naturally curious and are looking to please. They love hands on activities and we work together to build their self-esteem. You can help by sitting down with your child as she/he completes homework (practice of concepts that children already know) so that you can keep current with what's happening in the classroom. Encouraging independent reading, practicing math facts, and providing a structured environment for study near your work area (kitchen, den, etc.), in addition to assigning specific household chores, are some of the ways you can help at home.

Social Emotional Development

- Friendships become important building deeper connections with those with common interests
- Develop independence in school work and daily life activities
- Taking chances and making mistakes is important so that children can learn from them
- Self-esteem—students need to feel they are successful at valid academic, physical and social activities
- Social cues and social norms and empathy are developing through experiences and instruction

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, your child can:

- Read closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story
- Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (ex. cause and effect)
- Compare important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic
- Write opinions or explanations that group

Suggestion for home activities in language arts

- Read with your child. Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information
- Have your child select a picture from a newspaper, magazine or your photo album and write a story about it
- Have your child write your grocery list, help read recipes, guides to parks, etc.

<p>related information and develop topics with facts and details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write stories that establish a situation and include details, clear sequences of events describing thoughts, actions and feelings of the character • Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about various topics through determining importance • Ask and answer questions while listening to a speaker or participating in class discussions • Read aloud fluently without pausing to determine what each word means • Distinguish between literal and nonliteral meanings of words such as “something’s fishy” or “cold shoulder” using inferential thinking • Spell words correctly and use the dictionary to clarify meanings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to write in a journal or diary • Play board games, word games, etc. (These also help develop social skills.) • Talk about how you use reading and writing in your daily lives • Listen to audio books as you travel
<p>Mathematics</p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiply up to 10 x 10 quickly and accurately from memory • Understand place value to 10,000 • Solve word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division • Solve word problems using mathematical models to prove their answers • Begin to multiply numbers with more than one digit (ex. 8x90) • Understand fractions and relate them to whole numbers ($\frac{3}{1}=3$) • Measure and estimate weights and liquid volumes (grams, liters, etc.)and solve word problems using these quantities • Know US customary measurements and be able to convert inches to feet, etc. • Reason about shapes (ex. all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares) • Find the area of shapes relating area to multiplication 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow your child to pay for items bought at the store • Use a calculator in grocery store or have your child estimate your purchase price • Practice facts and mental math with numerous materials or play math games in the car • Practice telling time using an analog clock. Give them a watch! • Discuss ways math is used in everyday situations. How do you use math in your job or in life? • Involve your child when you are using division, multiplication or fractions (ex: How many cookies will each person get when I finish this recipe?) • Play games using multiplication or division including flash cards, card games and board games such as Monopoly • Use Mapquest to check mileage, gas usage, etc.
<p>Science Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classification of living and non-living things 2. Biomes such as rain forest 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your children about how things are made and how they work.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Habitats for animals such as reptiles 4. Weather and climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a walk and talk about animals and plants you see. • Explore a local area such as the Lamprey or Exeter River and note the variety of life forms you observe. • Talk about your family tree and note any similar/dissimilar traits. • Keep a weather log – be sure to measure the snowfall! • Give your child a specific responsibility for your pet or plants.
<p>Social Studies Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community 2. Citizenship 3. Culture 4. Customs 5. Why do people live where they live? 6. Landforms and map skills 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in social studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit our local museums, state parks, historical landmarks, public library and community arts. • Talk about current events with your child. • Find a way for your child to volunteer in the community – helping a neighbor, participating in a clean-up operation, reading to a younger child.