

Third Grade Newsletter

September/October 2010

We enjoyed meeting all of you at our recent Curriculum Night and want to thank you for your support. This letter is to share with you some of our classroom activities as well as important upcoming dates. We began the year with a focus on ourselves as individuals and as part of a group, establishing shared values, and on-going discussions and check-ins at our morning meetings. Our most recent topic has been bullying – what it is, how to recognize it, and what to do about it when we see it or experience it directly.

Following our initial focus on community and personal identity we will now begin to study the history of San Francisco. We will move back in time one thousand years to learn about the Ohlone people, the native people who lived here for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. As you know, we have a native garden on campus and the third grade class is responsible for taking care of it. This is a wonderful resource and students will be learning how each plant was used in Ohlone culture.

Third grade students have started their service learning project as the school's recycling monitors. So far they have done an outstanding job and are taking this responsibility extremely seriously.

We just completed our first library research project, focusing on girls books. Each student compared herself with her book's main character and wrote her virtual friend an invitation to spend time with her in San Francisco.

In the classroom, we have been reading a variety of books, all related to the topic of inclusion and exclusion. We will now also begin to read selected books relating to the Ohlone way life. We read aloud and in partnerships, small groups, and as a whole class. Our focus is on making connections, making predictions, learning new vocabulary, summarizing, asking questions and discussing ideas and problems. In writing class, we have been discussing voice. Our next focus will be on ideas.

In mathematics we have been gathering, analyzing and displaying data. We are also practicing place value, number sense, adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers, and addition combinations through 20. If your daughter is still struggling with her addition combinations through 20, playing at home some of the games she has learned in class will give her extra practice. These include Capture 5 and Close to 100. The game of 29, although not related to Investigations, is another great way to practice mental math skills.

Dates to add to your calendar:

- Thursday, October 28 3B field trip to the Transfer Station (SF dump)
Please remember to send your daughter to school with a snack and bag lunch. Transportation is provided by the program.
- Friday, October 29 Halloween parade. *Students will change after the parade and may need a reminder to bring their uniform to school that day.
One change this year is that parents are invited to the watch the parade from the front field. We look forward to seeing you there.
- Thursday, November 11 Field trip to Baker Beach (11:00-3:00)
Your daughter will need a bag lunch, sunscreen and a hat.
- Wednesday, December 10 Field trip to Mission Dolores (9:15am- 12:00pm). We will eat in class when we return to campus. If your daughter buys lunch she will be able to do that.

- * In order to make sure our Halloween celebration is truly fun for all and does not leave anyone feeling uncomfortable or offended, we ask you to please consider the following questions as you help your daughter prepare her costume:
- Does the costume reinforce cultural and ethnic stereotypes?
 - Does the costume represent an entire cultural or ethnic group rather than a particular historical or fictional person? Does the costume "make fun" of real people or real human characteristics?

Homework assignments are now posted on the web daily. Go to the Burke's website (HYPERLINK "<http://www.kdbs.org>"), click Academics, My Burke's, then 3rd Grade.

Our first homework challenges are:

- Creating a poster to advertise a book.
- Learning to type accurately with correct fingering.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joëlle Auberson, Nayo Brooks, Tiffany Goh, Paul Richardson