



Third Grade Weekly Plans

October 31, 2016

**TEACHER: Ms. Verheeck
ASSISTANT: Mrs. Doyle**

Virtue: Hope, Joy, & Wonder
Psalms: 67
Saying: "A clean bill of health"

Dear Parents,

We have had an exciting couple of weeks. Two Fridays ago the students celebrated the 25th anniversary of Crossroads Academy by cleaning up the gardens in front of Klee, planting garlic in a new raised bed made by Mr. Nichols, hearing a myth about our new mascot, the owl from Mr. Glazier, having an exciting afternoon full of games led by Mr. McGuigan and a hay ride given by Mr. Martin. As many of you witnessed, we marched proudly in our togas in the parade and heard lovely things that have happened at our wonderful school over the past twenty-five years. Thank you to each of you for making that special day possible. I feel so grateful to teach your children!

On Friday I sent home a flyer about "Bring a Friend to School Day." If you are interested in having your child bring a friend to school on November 11th, please fill out the information sheet with your friend's family as soon as possible and return it to school. If you have any questions, please reach out to Marilyn by email, Marilyn.wanner@crossroadsacademy.org.

We have a lot of things to look forward to this week. On Monday we will celebrate Mrs. Doyle's birthday. I am so thankful to have such a wonderful assistant that is as dedicated to our school as she is. In the afternoon we will do a skeletal system scavenger hunt around campus, weather permitting. After the students collect all of the pieces to the skeleton, it will be their job to put the pieces together. On Wednesday, we will welcome a new student to our class; his name is Aidan Whitfield and he and his family are from Etna. If you would like to reach out to Aidan and his family please feel free to send me a message and I can connect you with his family.

I will introduce "Gratitude Journals" this week. Each day your child will complete a writing prompt that asks them to think about things that they are thankful for in life. A few times a week your child will be asked to bring their journal home and complete a page with one of their family members. This assignment is meant to encourage them to think about their life and how grateful they are, as well as keep them writing. In addition, I will assign a "Turkey Disguise" project that will be completed at home. This project ties in with a book I have read aloud to your child titled, *Turkey Trouble*, as well as encourages them to use descriptive language and dialogue, two skills that we have been working on in class. The story I read is about a turkey that finds out he is the main course on Thanksgiving Day and therefore, he tries to disguise himself so he doesn't get eaten. Please look over the instructions and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. This is a popular project and I am confident that you will enjoy working on this with your child. Please return your completed speech bubble and turkey by November 11th.

This month we introduced “clipboards” to the students. They are familiar with how clipboards work from second grade. Clipboards are where students place their unfinished work, assignments that need to be fixed, or neatened. We are currently approaching the end of the first trimester and therefore all clipboard assignments will be due on Friday, November 4th. Please encourage your child to work diligently in order to complete all of their assignments on or before the 4th. The students have been and will be given time in class to complete their work.

This month we will be constructing a gingerbread house to donate to the Family Place in Norwich, Vermont. Theresa Westgate has graciously offered to help make gingerbread. The students and I will construct the house at school, however I will be asking families to donate candy for decorating. Our hope is to recreate the Klee Building, 25 years of strong minds and kind hearts. I will send an email with a list of items that we’ll need for our gingerbread house. Thank you for your support!

Before I conclude this week’s weekly sheet I would like to thank the Chin, Popescu, Westgate, Kloos, and Kebalka families for donating food, party products, and time on Rome Day. In addition I’d like to thank the Kloos, Chin, Kebalka, Popescu, Huang, and Pletcher families for donating festive snacks and party products for our Halloween celebrating last Friday.

Have a wonderful week ahead!

With gratitude,

Miss Heather Verheeck



Curriculum this Week:

Each week I will share the curriculum that is covered. This will allow you to know the various units and content that we will study.

Reading: Last week we read “The Man Whose Trade was Tricks” in Junior Great Books. This week the students will be asked to choose two characters from the story and create a made-up cartoon using dialogue, a skill that we will be covering in class this week. The students will do additional reading in their CK series as we prepare to read a novel next week, *Viking Adventures*.

Language Arts: The third graders are presenting their *colorful* descriptive writing projects to their classmates this week. Last week the students were given the option of writing a poem, story, or interview about the skeletal system. After they completed their rough drafts and discussed their writing with me I had them type their stories on the iPads. We will wrap both of these assignments up this week and concentrate on the proper use of dialogue in writing. We have many projects and assignments planned that will capture your child’s attention.

Spelling:

Green: (Sort 6.)

sleep, slept, keep, slide, shine, freeze, sweep, bleed, throw, know, threw, drew, knew, bled, swept, froze, draw, shone, say, slide, said, drove, kept, drive

Blue: (Sort 6)

kinder, kindest, earlier, earliest, stranger, emptiest, cleaner, quieter, trickier, emptier, cleanest, strangest, harsher, trickiest, fancier, crummier, harshest, quietest, fanciest, shinier, shiniest, murkier, crummiest, murkiest

BONUS: *Vercingetorix, appendages, multiplicative*

Vocabulary: Lesson 2: Moving Toward Numbers

The root *mot-* as in motion means “to move, to do.” The root *numer-* as in numeral means “number.” The following words are your child’s vocabulary words for the next two weeks: ***motel, motivate, motor, numerical, motionless, motive, numerator, numerous***

Math: We spent a few days reviewing the concept of problem solving. It became apparent that students were not certain when to add or subtract and would often guess. I feel confident that we are in a much better place now. Last week they completed their Benchmark I assessment and this week we will begin multiplication. I have introduced passports and they will begin their passport to multiplication this week.

Geography: This week the students will continue working on map skills as well as complete their Vermont maps that will help them understand the history of Vermont as they learn about it.

History: This week we will finish our Rome studies. We will have a class period of Roman activities before we begin reviewing what we’ve covered over the past two months of school.

The unit assessment will take place on Thursday, November 3rd. A review sheet will be sent home on Monday. If your child studies this sheet they will be well prepared for the assessment.

Science: This week we will continue our journey through the Nervous System. Last week I introduced the fact that this system is composed of three parts: the brain, spinal column, and nerves. We will continue to explore neurons and how they work throughout your body. By the end of the week we will be exploring the brain and the different lobes (and hemispheres) and what they control.

Spanish: (10/11-10/20) The third graders practiced the days of the week and date through games, calendar work, and a song (you can listen, too - it's on my teacher page). We also practiced how to say the phrases 'today is, tomorrow is, and yesterday was.' Students mastered the numbers 1-20 and practiced the numbers 30-60. We also explored fall vocabulary. The students made beautiful place mats using sharpies and pastels. They drew 'fall things' and then added Spanish words to label individual pictures. I hope you'll enjoy these at home. Finally, we ate a special snack together while listening to Spanish songs.