



Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

Dear Parents,

Happy October! We look forward to many exciting activities that will both enhance our learning and exhibit service towards others in the community during this exciting month. 3G is adjusting to academic life on the second floor; exploring the classroom, learning about themselves and their teammates, and working together to tackle our third grade curriculum. We have a busy and exciting month coming up!

Reading

Our unit on friendship has definitely been very exciting. We will continue with this theme throughout October. In school we are reading Charlotte's Web, a third grade favorite. In October, we will also be focusing on reading comprehension, sequencing, retelling, comparing and contrasting, and making connections between the text and the student's own life. The students have been able to make many connections to the stories that we have been reading and are learning how important it is to make these connections. Students have learned that good readers make connections between what they read and their own experiences. This is a good way to enjoy *and* understand a story! As they are reading, they should be aware of how ideas in the text remind them of things that happened to them. This will help them *comprehend* why an event occurred or why a character behaved in a certain way.

One of the most important things children learn in reading is how to comprehend written material. Parents can play a vital role in helping their children understand more of what they do to read, not by becoming "teachers" for their children, but rather by encouraging their children to read and think beyond the actual words in a reading selection. Children should be reading 15-20 minutes a night. I encourage parents to take this opportunity to spend time reading with your children. Reading aloud is very important to children at this age. The children need to hear others reading to help them with their own fluency. It can also help increase vocabulary, comprehension, as well as interest in reading. Ask the children questions while reading to keep them engaged in the story.

The following ideas provide you with some suggestions to try at home.



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1. During a commercial break in a television program you are both watching, ask your child questions such as, "why is the character doing that?" or "What do you think will happen next?". These kind of reasoning/anticipation questions are important in comprehension development.
2. If you read with your child, stop every so often and ask your child to think about what might come next in the story. Encourage your child to use what they know already to make predictions.
3. Before you read a familiar story again with your child, ask him or her to give you a capsule summary of characters, setting, events, or situations that occurred. Then compare this summation with the actual events of the story as you read. Point out important parts your child may have left out.

Writing



In third grade we will be working a great deal improve upon our writing. Recently, we have spent most of our time focusing on setting up a paragraph. The children are beginning to understand the format.

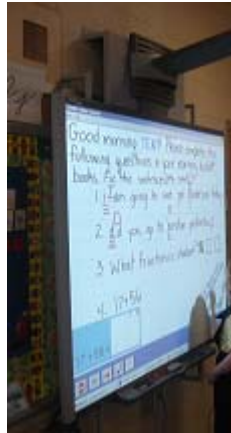
We began our individual writing conferences. During these conferences we will discuss all the great aspects of our writing as well as the aspects of writing that we can improve on. This will be helpful for each *individual* writer in our classroom and their individual needs.



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Math

One of the most challenging concepts for students at this developmental level is the arduous task of word problems! I encourage students to read each sentence at a time and take it step by step, draw pictures to represent the problems, and explain *how* they reached an answer. We will continue to work on word problems and will learn how to *apply* their background knowledge of operations to solve such problems. Throughout October we will also work on perfecting our addition with regrouping skills and subtraction with regrouping skills. We will also perfect some skills that we worked on throughout September.



Science



We began our learning as third grade scientists with life science. We have been learning about the different characteristics of living things; their needs, how they grow, and how they respond to the environment. We will continue to learn about living things this month and will focus on the life cycle of animals and plants.



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Social Studies

We will be focusing on the state where we live in greater detail and will also utilize Weekly Reader and a Massachusetts newspaper which will keep us current on exciting news and historical information.

Religion



Please be on the lookout for our next upcoming project on Saints. Directions will be given at the end of the first week of October. Students will have until October 30th to complete the project. I have many resources and would be happy to help the students choose their saints and find information to complete the project. Please make sure your child gets their Saint approved by me before starting. We do not want to have many duplicate saints in the classroom because this project will become a learning tool during our literacy centers.

We look forward to our exciting trip to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on Friday October 2nd. The World Apostolate of Fatima Eucharistic Holy Hour will surely be a wonderful learning experience and time of prayer.

3rd Grade Liturgy

The 3rd grade liturgy is on Friday October 3rd. Please join us for the liturgy and refreshments after!



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Library

We will go to the library every other *Tuesday afternoon*. This month our library dates are 10/6 and 10/20. Each child is responsible for bringing their library card. A good spot for them to keep their library cards is in their zip pocket inside their T.E.A.M. binder.

Monthly Dress Down Days

We will have a 3G dress down day on the first Tuesday of every month. I will send reminders via Teacherease.

Some Important Dates to Remember:

October 1st- Walk a thon at Thayer field

October 6th - Picture Day

October 9th - 3rd Grade Liturgy and Refreshments / 12 noon Dismissal

October 12th - Columbus Day No School

October 13th - Historical Perspective Performance

October 20th - 22nd - Fall Book Fair

October 24th- Halloween Party and Craft Fair

October 30th - Halloween Party



As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Thank you!



S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I S C H O O L

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