

March 2017

## Third Grade Newsletter

Ms. Beltran - 3-301

Mrs. Roby & Mrs. McKenna - 3-303

Mrs. Duffy - 3-305

Mrs. Moreno – 3-307

### **Math News**

We are studying fair shares and fractions on number lines. Students will understand that fractions are numbers that are a point on the number line. We will also think about fractions as part of an area using shapes and real world contexts like brownies and pizza. We will think about fractions as distance points on a number line, using real world contexts such as walking down a block. Students will create equivalent fractions to demonstrate understanding of a whole, and a half. We will practice adding and subtracting fractions to a whole. At home talk about sharing things equally and how it relates to fractions. For example a pizza pie is cut up into 8 equal pieces. Your family shares the pizza equally with four people. Every one eats 2 slices. Each person has  $\frac{2}{8}$  of the pizza, which equals  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the whole.

### **Reading News**

The children in third grade have been working so hard preparing for their ELA exam (April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>). We have read many different types of texts and discussed what to expect when we encounter them. We've learned many strategies to help us answer multiple-choice questions as well!

### **Content Literacy News**

This month we are switching gears and we are learning about science during content literacy. We will explore plant and animal adaptation. Our guiding question is: How do plants and animals adapt in order to survive in their environment? One way plants adapt is by changing how they disperse their seeds in order to survive. For example



coconuts (a seed from a palm tree) has adapted by floating in water to sprout when it reaches land. Plants have different features that help them adapt such as long roots, wide leaves, and brightly colored petals. These features help them survive in challenging environments. When you walk home from school notice the plants growing up out of the cracks in the sidewalk. Have a discussion with your child about how the plants in our neighborhood have adapted to survive.

### **Writing News**

The children are becoming experts at writing short and extended responses. We've worked a lot on understanding the questions we need to answer in writing and also on making sure to include details that support our thinking.

### **March Announcements:**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Children will be dismissed at 11:20 am

***March Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Teachers can arrange to meet at other designated times throughout March to meet with families if you cannot meet on March 9<sup>th</sup>.***

**March 14-** PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm

**March 28 – March 30:** NYS ELA

**April 10-18** -Spring Recess Schools are closed

**May 2 – May 4:** NYS Math