



# Third Grade Thoughts

**Ms. Udin, Ms. Grissler, Ms. Doran, Ms. A. Bollini,  
Mr. Lyman and Ms. Sconzo**



## Parent Newsletter – December 2019

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

**Literacy:**

**Reading – It’s all about non-fiction**

The students will understand main ideas by looking closely at the facts and details used to support them. They will also be able to identify comparisons, contrasts, and changes over time by closely reading sentences, paragraphs, and text features across texts about the same topic.

**Writing** – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade writers will begin writing an informational piece. By the end of the unit, they will be able to use research-based facts and text features to convey main ideas and details about a topic that changes over time.

**Vocabulary** – Students will be using Wordly Wise in class. They will be assessed on their words each Friday.

**Math:**

Students will continue learning about multiplication and division strategies as they finish Eureka Module 3. They will also start exploring place value and problem solving with units of measure as they jump into Eureka Math Module 2.

**Social Studies:**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will begin their journey as they travel around the world. First stop...Africa! Students will learn how the culture, history, geography, people, and government affect communities in Africa.

**Science:**

For the month of December, students will continue to learn about living things in our world.

**Technology:**

During the month of December, your child will be focusing their navigation skills using their prior practice of keyboarding and mouse expertise, along with proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed. We will also be continuing to learn about Microsoft Word and how to find information about a topic using online resources.

*“Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year!”*

*-Ms. Udin, Ms. Grissler, Ms. Doran,  
Ms. A. Bollini, Mr. Lyman and Ms. Sconzo*

### What’s New in Performing Arts?

**Mr. Cintula:** Third grade is working from our new Music Studio online curriculum series by McGraw Hill. We are working on several folk songs dealing with the pitches Mi, Re, Do. We’re focusing on quarter note, quarter note rest and paired eighth note rhythms.

**Ms. Eliot:** Students will learn about the different instruments in an orchestra and explore the elements of music.

**Ms. Granatelli:** During the month of December, students will learn about sculpture and how to work with modeling clay. All art materials are provided in class.

**\*Upon returning from December’s Holiday break, 3rd grade will be changing their performing arts class.**

**Ms. LaGrotta (333):** During dance class in December, third grade classes will be continuing identifying and demonstrating isolated dance moves of various body parts, locomotor and non-locomotor movements, and dancing with different tempos and rhythms.

### \*IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/6 – Holiday Fair
- 12/6 – Pretzel Day
- 12/16 – “Frozen” Sing-a-Long, 9:00am – Wear your best Elsa/Anna/Olaf costumes!
- 12/17 – F.U.D.G.E. Day, 9:30am
- 12/23-1/1/20 – Winter Recess – School resumes on 1/2/20

### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Have your child read more non-fiction texts this month.
- Review your multiplication facts (0-12) daily.
- Review your content-based and math vocabulary daily.
- Be sure to use text-based evidence when answering all types of questions, such as multiple choice, short answers, and extended response questions.

**PTA News**

The PTA would like to give a big Thank you to all those who came to our “Bowling With the Panthers” event! It was so much fun! A special shout out to the teachers and staff that came along with their families to make this event extra special!

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> is our Pretzels for Panthers day! Only \$1 for a delicious pretzel!

Also Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> is our Holiday Fair, where parents are also invited along for some fun holiday shopping with their little ones! Please see teacher class times for a schedule.

David & Buster’s power play cards are on sale now! A great gift idea your loved ones can use during the holiday week off and support our school!

Shop with a smile on amazon and proceeds will go directly to our Petrides PTA! Please use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) select Michael J. Petrides in the drop down box and amazon will give 0.5% of your purchase as a donation to our PTA (prices are exactly the same!) We hope that you can join us for our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**A Note From Ms. Ponzi**

Dear Families,

It was so nice to see so many of you attend our Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Communication and collaboration between families and school is extremely beneficial for the success of our students, so we THANK YOU!

I encourage and appreciate your continued support at upcoming Parents as Partners events. It was so nice to see parents up at school this past month to assist at workshops in the classroom, shop at the book fair, and enjoy SING! I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Please continue to dress your child appropriately for the changing weather. We are continuing to send children outside for recess and physical education class when the weather permits.

As we approach the holiday season, let us remember the importance of family, friends, and fun! I wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy holiday season with your loved ones.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ponzi

**Happy Holidays**