



THE NEWS FROM 317

Important Dates

October 13th – Picture Day



Learning about the library on Field Trip Friday!

Dear Families,

Many, many thanks to everyone who has been helping our community! Whether it is by helping with jobs in the classroom, providing snacks, chaperoning, or helping with communications, we are better for it.

Our first Field Trip Friday trip to the NYPL was a great success, and the kids were so excited about getting their library cards, and taking out books. Because of our relationship with Jessica, the amazing children's room librarian at the St. Agnes branch, we have special due dates for the books we check out. They are not due until the next Field Trip Friday (November 3rd). However, if you wish to return them sooner, please feel free!

Picture Day

Picture day will be this Friday, October 13th! Please return your forms to indicate your background preference. If no preference is indicated, then the default background is the blue back drop.

LICE

It's that time of year again, people! Yes, it's true; there is a confirmed case of head lice in the third grade. Please make sure you are checking your child's scalp regularly. If you don't know what to do when checking, you can ask me, since I have been through it! Please make sure you are checking, though.

If your child does have lice, please make sure you let me know immediately!! Also, please know that your child must be checked in the main office before they are able to return to school. The DOE policy is that a child may come to school with nits (eggs), but no live lice. The thinking behind this is that a child with nits will still be receiving treatment to remove the nits. Nit removal should be ongoing until your child's scalp is nit free. Again, if you have any questions, please let me know.

Curriculum Documents

If you missed Curriculum Night, and you would like the documents, I have put them in a tray next to the Out Box. Please help yourself!

Learning Update

Writer's Workshop

This past week marked a huge increase in writing stamina! Students worked very hard to fill their notebooks with entries about true, small moments from their lives. This week we are focusing on ways to tell our true stories with a storytellers voice. We will also pick the idea that will become our published piece.

Reader's Workshop

This past week we began picking books from our just right levels. The expectation is that kids will be reading from these books during Reader's Workshop. Ideally, each child will bring this same book home at night, and read for 20 to 30 minutes from it. I say *ideally* because I know that not every kid is an avid reader, and getting them to read at home can be challenging. If this is the case, please don't fight about it! Your child may be tired, they may need a break, they may want to do something different. You can try giving them opportunities to read different types of texts, or read to them instead. My son Jesse is somewhat of a reluctant learner, and reading is definitely NOT what he chooses to do at home. Instead, he reads Sports Illustrated for kids if he feels like it. Don't despair, your child will grow as a reader, but we want to make sure that we don't ruin reading for them by making it a "have to".

Social Studies

This past week we brainstormed, and finalized our class rules. They are hung in the room over the meeting area, so please come check them out.

Math Workshop

This past week we began an investigation that supports the foundational understanding of multiplicative thinking. We worked on counting items in a fictional grocery store using our most efficient methods possible. For some third graders it may be counting by ones, for some it might be skip counting, for others it may be doubling a number to get the total faster. All of this is designed to move them towards having an understanding of the concept of multiplication. We also focused on important routines and habits of mind of mathematicians; like partner work, and clearly showing proof of thinking.

Warmly,

Elizabeth

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