**Our Weekly News…..**

**Friday, September 26, 2014**

 Book Orders

  **I am sending home the first book order of the year. If you wish to order you may order online. I have attached a sheet that shows how to do that. If you prefer to send your money in to school that is okay. Please make checks payable to me. I have to send one check to Scholastic to cover the total amount. The deadline for the orders is Monday, October 6th. Thank you!**

 Math

**We are working through the review concepts in Unit 1. They include: place value, finding differences using an open number line, collecting data, finding the important landmarks (maximum, minimum, range, median, and mode) of data, using coins to represent different amounts of money, calculating change, and identifying and recording the time on an analog clock. Students should be bring home a homework assignment Monday – Thursday. I anticipate a math assessment on October 10th.**

**Science **

**We are studying forces that shape and change the Earth’s landforms. Pages C30 – C54. Students are in the process of completing a graphic organizer that will serve as a study guide for the test. A great home activity would be to take a walk and look for signs of weathering, creep, and erosion. Kids could then draw and label the examples they observed while on the hike. They could also cut pictures from magazines and create a weathering collage. Students who bring in a picture or collage of weathering/erosion will get extra credit in Science. The first test in Science is scheduled for Friday, October 3rd. I will send home the completed and corrected study guide on Tuesday, September 30th.**

 **Reading**

**This week we integrated our reading a math lessons a little bit. We looked at our dibels data as a class, drew some conclusions, and set some goals. In order to create a culture of community and teamwork we are setting class goals as well as individual goals.**

**Our Reading Goals:**

 **By mid January we will:**

1. **Increase our minimum score to 55 or greater.**
2. **Increase the number of students at or above the target from 15 to 20. (or higher)**
3. **Decrease our range from 148 to 125 or less.**
4. **Increase our median score to 90.**

**What we noticed about our reading data:**

1. Many of us are close to the third grade target.
2. Fifteen of us were above the target!
3. Fifteen were below the target.
4. Our maximum words correct per minute was 175.
5. Our minimum was 27.
6. Our range was 148.
7. Our median was 69.5

**OUR MAP FOR MEETING OUR READING GOALS:**

**Read a lot!!!**

**20 minutes at home everyday**

**30 minutes at school everyday**

**Choose good fit books**

**Encourage each other**

**Help and support each other by recommending good books!**

**Read with a friend**

**Set a good example during reading time at school**

**Stay focused on our goal!!**

**Families,**

**We appreciate any support you can give us! More books, reading with us, and words of encouragement will help us stay on track!!**

**GRADING/CONFERENCES/GRADED WORK**

**Please bear with me as I learn the new way of grading for third grade. It is different from what I did in fourth grade. I am still tweaking the points for various assignments. Next week, I will send home a finalized grading system/scale. In addition, some assignments students will be opting to put in their portfolios to prepare for conferences so they will not bring that home. Please mark your calendars now for parent conferences. Your children love sharing what their learning and doing with you. Friday, November 7th will be conferences.**

**Students are bringing home a packet of graded work in a Friday Folder. Please return the folder (emptied) to school on Monday. If you have questions or concerns please let me know.**

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