

June 18, 2009

Dear Soon-to-be Third Grade Parents,

Greetings from the 3rd Grade! I am looking forward to working with you and your kids next year. This year's class seemed pretty excited about many of the things we've done, and I'm hoping to improve upon that next year.

In preparation for the upcoming school year (sounds strange, doesn't it? - since we're only just done with this one!), please enroll your child in the summer reading program, America's Top Next Reader, through the Whittier Public Library. At the end of the program, please collect your sign-in sheet with the books your child has read listed on the sheet. This must be brought to me on their first day of school in September. I can't stress enough the importance of literacy. It impacts just about everything we teach. In the third grade we focus on fluency, comprehension, and writing skills. Consistent reading over the summer will keep their skills sharp.

Running neck-and-neck with literacy is the importance of mathematics. Every student should be working with their addition, subtraction, and multiplication flash cards over the summer. I recommend spending at least 30 minutes a week on this, perhaps split up into 10-15 minute sessions several times a week. The goal should be automatic responses to their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. The more prepared they are, the more progress they'll make during the school year.

Please help your child get off to a good start next year. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ericson