



## Ms. Thomas October Newsletter

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe we are already into our second month of third grade! The children have settled nicely into their routines and have been hard at work. Here is an update on what we have been working on.

### Reading

We have read in a variety of genres including historical fiction, realistic fiction, poetry, nonfiction, fantasy, a play and a fable. The children are finishing up Unit one in the reading series this week and will take Benchmark One the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of the skills we have worked on in reading are: author's purpose character\_development, setting, story structure, and sequence. An important aspect of reading\_instruction is learning reading strategies that good readers use. The students have been learning to use visualization, summarizing, monitoring their comprehension and inferring.

Please check out a great website called [IntotheBook](#) where your child can log in and practice these strategies.

We are almost done with [Little House](#). A book report project will be assigned soon with details coming home. The next two books we will be reading are [Molly's Pilgrim](#) and the Magic Tree House Research Guide for [Penguins and Antarctica](#). Your child may want to have the companion book, [Eve of the Emperor Penguin](#).

## Math

This month the students are working on place value, telling time, measurement in feet and to 1/4<sup>th</sup> inch, and geometric shapes. I am asking that families purchase a set of addition and subtraction flashcards that can be kept in students' desks. These facts should now be automatic since we will soon be starting multiplication and division.

## Writing

Students have been learning to write personal narratives. They have several pieces in their writing notebooks, and will soon choose a piece to publish.

## Science

We are learning about the Sun, Moon, and Earth. This week we will be doing a fun project on the phases of the moon.

## Social Studies

Students have focused on Why and How we study history. Now they will be learning about the geography of Massachusetts.

## Spelling

Please have your child show you the website [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com). You can log in to practice the weekly spelling words in a fun way. The children can also be tested online.

There are a few things we use all year long that can be donated to the classroom.

Expo markers	paper towels
Tissues	highlighters
Baby wipes	post it notes

We will also be doing a pumpkin math project toward the end of October. I will be looking for 6 medium sized pumpkins to be donated to the classroom for students to work with in small groups. If anyone would be willing to donate a pumpkin, please let me know.

### Homework Reminders

Please read and sign your child's agenda nightly to sure they have completed all their homework correctly. Please also sign the reading log nightly. They should now be reading 20 minutes each night.

If you have any questions, please call or email at [lthomas@fairhavenps.org](mailto:lthomas@fairhavenps.org)

Thank you,  
Ms. Thomas

Ps. A list of fun and helpful websites will be coming home soon!

