



## Reading

Look for the Family Times sheets each Monday in your child's home folder. It explains each story, skill, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling for that week. It also has extension activities to do with your child at home. The theme for unit 3 is Inventors and Artists. The students will be exposed to genres such as biographies, a play, nonfiction, poetry, and an interview. We have started our second novel titled Hatchet. Students will be creating dioramas depicting their favorite scene upon completion of the story, as well as a written report. Students will read during class and at home. You are welcome to read it with your child; it's a great story about overcoming challenges.

## Writing/Language Arts

Students will be writing essays to compare and contrast themselves to boys and girls from Plymouth Plantation. We will also work on description writing, adding adjectives and adverbs to make our stories more exciting. Our class will create poetry that appeals to winter as well. They will be writing essays about someone who inspires them. We are also learning to use similes and metaphors in the right way. As you can see, we are getting a lot of practice improving our writing skills.

## Math

The class has completed multiplication and will begin division next. Students **need** to practice their facts each night to know them better than they do now. The division process can be very difficult for some, so I ask that you practice with your children as much as possible at home. The [ixl.com](http://ixl.com) website is a great resource for practicing all the skills we learn in class each day. Students have worked on this site many times in school, so they are familiar with it. Please try to have them log on a few times a week to keep up with the skills taught in class.

## Social Studies

We are working in the unit on Early Civilizations, which includes The Maya, Aztecs, and Inca people. Students are learning about the rise and fall of each, their locations on the globe, their achievements, political structures, religious practices, and use of slaves. There will be a project and essay due on January 7<sup>th</sup>. I will send home a rubric and directions so you understand what is expected. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Our next unit will be Explorers around the world.

## Science

The next unit is Energy and Work. There are lots of fun experiments in this unit, and a great movie done by Bill Nye the science guy. Students will focus on types of energy and how they can change from one form to another, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each type of energy. We will also experiment with friction to understand when it is useful and when it is not.

## Reminders

- Please remind your child that materials not needed for class should stay at home. Students should not be bringing in toys or objects that will distract them or others during learning time.
- Homework is an extension of class work, and is equally important in learning new skills. **Please remember to check your child's agenda and home folder daily!** Some students are coming in to school

without homework completed, and are spending their recess time making it up.

- Children should be spending some time at home logging on to [Study Island.com](http://StudyIsland.com) to practice ELA, Math, and Science for the MCAS test next spring.
- [Spellingcity.com](http://Spellingcity.com) is another website we have been using. Students can also access this site from home to practice their weekly spelling words. More great sites are [Funbrain.com](http://Funbrain.com) and [Ixl.com](http://Ixl.com) for practice with math skills, and [Dancemattyping.com](http://Dancemattyping.com) for typing practice.
- All students should be wearing jackets to school now that the weather is getting colder. They will not be allowed out at recess if they don't have a jacket!!!