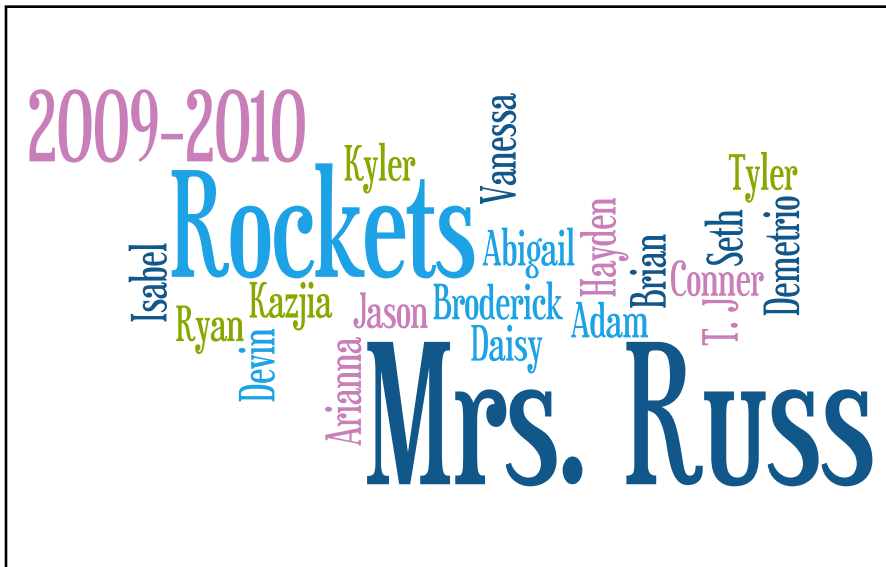


# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to Third Grade!



Learning is a great adventure in third grade. Unlike second grade, where so much time is spent reinforcing and ensuring mastery of the skills taught in first grade, many new and more sophisticated skills are introduced in third grade. Emphasis is placed on the application of these skills. For instance, third grade students

are not only "learning to read", they are beginning to "read to learn."

This year, we are all going to **reach for the stars!** The following information will give you a small glimpse of the wonderful and challenging things that will happen in my classroom as we **launch into third grade.**

### Tuesday Folders and Graded School Work

All of the work your child does in school during the week, as well as their corrected homework, will be sent home in their Tuesday Folder. I do not send any corrected work home at any other time during the week.

Look over the completed assignments in the Tuesday Folder and **sign the sheet in the front of the folder** to indicate that you have seen the papers. **Return the empty folder on Wednesday morning.** Do not return any graded papers except those marked "Sign and return."



### FIELD TRIP: SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

The third grade classes are going on a field trip to the Mattie Kelly Arts Center to see the play "Spider and the Bee." The cost for each student is \$8.00. Look



for the **green permission slip** in this week's folder. Please return the permission slips as soon as possible. Payment is due by September 16.



## Our Class Website

You will find lots of information about my class on **our class website** at <http://mrsruss.com>

I hope you will take a few minutes to explore some of the information in the **“Parent” section** to find out more about my class. Don't miss the link to the class **wikispace** where you'll find a calendar of important dates and this week's homework assignments.

## Reading Classes

The third graders will be **changing classes** for reading this year. We have reading daily from 10:30 to 12:00. You should have received a note on Friday letting you know which teacher your child will have for reading.

## Planners

Your child's planner will be used to record **homework assignments** and other due dates. Please **check the planner every day** and **initial the box** that you have seen the homework and to indicate that your child has done the required 20 minutes of reading.

## Homework

Your child should bring home a blue and white “Plew Panther” homework folder every day except Friday. This folder will have homework and other important papers that are due the next day.

Students are expected to complete all homework and to **read for 20 minutes every night**. Generally, homework should not take more than 45 minutes to complete, including reading for 20 minutes.

## Grades

Beginning this year, the district has mandated that **grades for elementary students will be based on three categories of tasks**, each with a different total weighting of the final grade. The categories are:

**Continuum of Practice: 10% of the grade.** Daily class work, math fact practice, weekly spelling tests, graded homework

**Progress Monitoring: 40% of the grade.** Teacher made assessments, quizzes.

**Evaluation: 50% of the grade.** Assessment to determine mastery of skills, unit tests, projects, “cold” reads.

This year, there is not a separate grade on the report card for Spelling. **Spelling tests will be included as part of the Reading grade.**

## Calendar

### September 2, 2009

Early Release Day. School dismisses at noon.

### September 7, 2009

Labor Day. No School.

### September 16, 2009

Field Trip money due.

### September 17, 2009

Field trip to Mattie Kelly Arts Center.

## This Week:

### READING

“Dear Juno.”  
Spelling Unit 1.2

### MATH

Adding and subtracting 2- and 3-digit numbers.

### SCIENCE

Plant parts and their functions.  
Classifying plants.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Maps and Globes.  
“Where in the world is Niceveille?”

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Commands and Exclamations.  
Cursive lower case letters f, j, p, u,