

Third Grade

December 2023

Twin Ridge Elementary

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Upcoming Events

Friday, December 1: 2 hour early dismissal mid-term

Thursday, December 7th 9am-12pm: Mrs. Sears & Ms. Reeley ESSL Field Trip

Friday, December 8th 9am-12pm: Mrs. Stone and Ms. Buser ESSL Field Trip

Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1: Schools will be closed for winter break

CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading:

Students will start working in Module 4 (Stories on Stage). Our genre focus for this module will be drama. Students will be working to identify elements of drama and the literary elements the authors are using. Students will read texts that help them answer the essential question: Why might some stories be better told as plays? Along with learning content to answer that essential question, students will read and spell words with the prefixes in- (not) and im- (into). We will also decode words with consonant digraphs and vowel diphthongs.

Learn more about how you can support your child at home in [Module 4](#).

Writing:

In writing's Module 4, students will learn the components of a narrative story. They will write a narrative story about a person who helped make a difference and what they did to help someone else. In each module, students will be guided through the process of brainstorming and organizing their ideas prior to writing, drafting, revising and editing, and publishing their written work.

In addition to our writing tasks, students will be working to understand grammar skills to improve their writing. In Module 4 students will work to create and use regular and irregular plural nouns. Students will also work to explain the functions of each part of speech in sentences. Students will also practice using commas and punctuation marks in their writing.

MATH

This month we will continue working in Unit 2 - Multiplication and Division. Over the course of Unit 2, students will learn that:

- multiplication is a way of combining equal groups,
- there are many models and strategies to help you multiply,
- you can multiply numbers in any order,
- you can use place value to multiply,
- division means separating a total number of objects into equal-sized groups, and
- multiplication and division are connected

Later in December we will begin working in Unit 3 - Area. Over the course of Unit 3, Students will learn that:

- area is a unit of measurement
- area is the amount of space taken up by a two dimensional object
- multiplication can be used to find the area of rectangular shapes
- multiplication and addition can be used to find the area of non-rectangular shapes

In addition, we will continue to focus on problem solving. Students have been working on reading word problems carefully. They then identify what the problem is about, determine what question they are being asked to answer, and look back into the problem to find mathematical information to help them find the answer.

SCIENCE

This month we start our third unit - Forces and Interactions. During this unit students will explore force and how the strength of force affects motion. They will experiment with balanced and unbalanced forces. They will learn about friction and how it affects motion. They will then explore whether speed affects motion and the amount of time it takes to get to a destination. Students will track motion to identify patterns in motion. They

will end the unit experimenting with gravity, learning about how magnets work, and exploring static electricity.

PATHs UPDATES

The PATHS program teaches and reinforces many key aspects of Social Emotional Learning, shown through research to improve behavior, reduce conflict and improve academics. This month, we will be working to make sense of emotions and learn problem solving strategies to control our emotions.