



# 3F Messenger

Mr. Ford's Third Grade

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008



## Notes

- Progress reports were sent home today. Please look over your child's report with them. Don't forget you can also view your child's grades using Skyward Family Access. Please sign the progress report and return it to school on Tuesday so I know you've had a chance to go over the report with your child.
- I want to thank you again for all the wonderful gifts you gave to me before break. You truly spoiled me with all the gift cards and other gifts. Thank you very much. Your child also should have brought home an individual thank you note, which was passed out the last day before break.
- I'm trying to be better about updating the homework page of the class website on a daily basis. Your child should have their homework assignments written in their assignment notebook with the website serving as a backup. I also continue to add pictures from class and samples of student writing to the website as well.
- January book orders were sent home today. If you would like to order, please send your order to school by next Friday (Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>). You can also order online at [www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering) (Username - mrford Password - prairieland). Don't forget that each student can pick 1 book from any book order this year (\$3.95 or less). This was my holiday gift to each student.

- Every other week we have a classroom store. Students are able to buy prizes and special privileges (like sitting at the teacher's desk, or reading to another class) with their classroom cash. We are in need of prizes to restock our prize supply. Prizes can be used items you no longer use, or new things you see on clearance or sale. Some ideas are school supplies, small games or toys, collecting cards, books, small stuffed animals, really anything a third grader would like. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the class store you can send it to class whenever it is convenient for you. Thanks for your help with this!

- Thank you to all who have contributed Box Tops to our classroom. The money goes to buy supplies for student and classroom use. We collect Box Tops throughout the entire year.

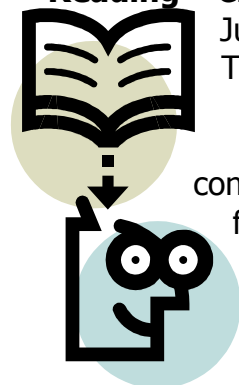
## Important Dates

**January 21<sup>st</sup> – Monday**

No School – MLK Jr. Holiday

## In the Classroom

**Reading** – Class Stories: "The Stories Julian Tells" and "The Talent Show"



Students should continue to read a biography for the January home reading log. After reading the biography students must complete the "Biography Poster"



Report” as a way of reporting on the biography they read. They are due at the end of the month, unless other arrangements have been made.

The class is currently reading books by Andrew Clements in Book Clubs. The students spend time reading every Tuesday and Thursday. Then, students have a job, such as word finder, questioner, illustrator, or connector to complete. At the start of each Book Club meeting students share their job sheets and discuss the book. Thank you to all the parent volunteers that help with Book Clubs each week.

**Math** – In math we are studying place value. Students are learning to read, write, compare, order, add and subtract large numbers to at least the millions place. Soon we will concentrate on decimals, including how decimals relate to fractions.

The other day we did an activity where the students each had a note card with a large number written on it. Students had to get in order based on their number. Then they traded cards and got in order again. Each time students had to practice saying the number correctly.

We also worked with the population numbers of large cities in the United States. Students worked to order and compare the cities based on their population.

**Writing** – Writers’ workshop, response journal writing, class book writing

**Social Studies** – Recently we’ve been learning about the French explorers who traveled in the Illinois region. The class

works in groups to research an explorer’s life and write a report. The groups will create a life-sized poster of the explorer to display in the commons along with their reports.

**Science** – Rocks and minerals are our current topic of study in science. The students started the unit with a brief experiment. They placed drops of vinegar on rocks to test whether or not the rock contained lime. Have your student tell you more! We are learning all about the three main groups of rocks, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic, as well as the rock cycle.

**Stations** – Each Thursday afternoon the class participates in stations, a five-activity rotation. Recent activities have included reading groups, Scrabble Junior, place-value math game, creating a class book (all about each students favorite book), readers’ theater and much more.

## Students Examining Rocks in Science

