



# Third Grade Classroom News

jewish community  
day school of rhode island

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From the desk of Ms. Amaral  
Ms. Cohen

## THIRD GRADE NEWS

The month of October is under way! The following is a brief summary of what the third graders have been working on.

### MATH

We learned an addition strategy called Rounding to Nearby Landmarks! Changing a number to a more familiar one that is easier to compute is another strategy that students should develop. Multiples of 5 and 10 are especially useful landmarks for students at this age. For example, in order to add 199 and 149, you might think of the problem as 200 plus 150, find the totals of 350, and then subtract 2 to compensate for the 2 added on at the beginning. There are no rules about which landmarks in the number system are the best. As an introduction/review of subtraction, the students had a mini science lesson! We weighed apples, plums, and grapes on a pan balance. There was discussion about what would happen to the fruit if we let it sit out for a few days. After a few days...we reweighed our fruit, reviewed/confirmed our predictions, and found the difference between the two weights of each fruit. On top of that, the class discussed the process behind regrouping with 3-digit numbers and how to use addition to check subtraction. More to come...



### SPELLING/GRAMMAR

Way to go! We had our first spelling test! We made words that start with cr, tr, br, and fr. A buddy quiz will be tossed into our mix every Wednesday. The class discussed "What is a sentence?" They played a game with words that allowed the students to make as many sentences as they could, adding in punctuation and capitalization. The words "subject" and "predicate" were introduced to third graders as they dissected sentences through a cut and paste activity.

### SCIENCE

Science will start after the holidays. However, we will be discussing scientific skills such as asking questions, making hypotheses, testing, making observations, and recording results.



## READING

Our Kevin Henkes author study is in full swing! Students have jumped right into the activity packet revolving around Kevin Henkes books. Students have noticed that he writes lots of picture books about mice. These mice always have a problem-usually involving friendship or family. The problem always gets solved in the end. Students are now working in guided reading groups to read a "just right" book using the strategies that good readers use. A rubric has been introduced to the students regarding their reading response journals. The students are expected to give themselves a grade before the teacher does!

## WRITING

Before the actual drafting of a personal narrative, the children were asked to fill out a planning sheet that sounded something like this: Who will be my audience? What will be my purpose? List three experiences you could write about. Discuss your ideas with a partner. Will I enjoy writing about this? Can I remember enough details? Will this interest my audience? We then discussed the first part of the writing process: drafting. Don't worry about spelling kids! We will take care of that later! Now that the children are done drafting they have begun the revision stage by having a writing conference with other students. Each student received sticky notes in order to add in more details or change any wording. Editing is next!

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students read about Getting Along in a Community. The students then created posters about how laws can keep you safe in your community and what can happen if the law is not followed.

## ART/LIBRARY

Please refer to our website: [www.jcdsri.org](http://www.jcdsri.org).

## NOTES FROM ADMINISTRATION

Thank you for attending Open House! We would like to address a few of your concerns in this newsletter.

- Class size: The model of a full time assistant seems to be working. We will address any issues that arise.
- Calendar: The days off before the holidays may have been a mistake and we will look into it for next year.
- Curriculum: We are looking into alternatives to possibly add in more General Studies blocks.
- Peanut Issue: We are looking into whether we need to be a school-wide peanut free school.