

Our goal for our students' fact knowledge is for them to be able to know their multiplication and division facts automatically, or at the very least, have a strategy they can use to solve a problem within a few seconds. Here are a few "dos" for practicing facts:

- **Do:** Practice facts in short practice sessions (10 minutes at a time).
- **Do:** Focus on only a few new facts at a time rather than working on all facts at once.
- **Do:** Introduce new facts that can be related to facts that have already been mastered (rather than simply introducing facts in order). For example, 4×6 is double 2×6 .

Below are some more tips and strategies that might help:

Limit the facts to be learned at once. Sort a stack of flashcards into piles; those that are known automatically and those that are not. Practice one or two unknown facts at a time along with known facts until they become automatic. Keep adding a few new facts at a time, but continue to practice known facts.

Teach a strategy at a time--don't simply go "in order" from 0-10. Once students understand that 2 facts, 4 facts, and 8 facts are related (by "doubling"), it makes sense to work on these facts together. Similarly, students can learn 5 facts by understanding 10 facts that are split in half. When we teach students that 9 facts are "one less group" than the 10 fact, that builds understanding.

With multiplication and division, **practice facts together that are related.** For instance $4 \times 8 = 32$ so $8 \times 8 = 64$ because the first factor is doubled, the quotient is also doubled. (4's and 8's; 2's and 4's; 3's and 6's; 6's and 12's; 4's and 8's; 3's and 9's, etc.)

Use the senses in combination to fire neurons and imprint memory. (*Say and write, listen and repeat, look and say, trace and say, trace and write, sky write and say, choral recitation, move and say, clap it out, etc.*)

Play oral math games in the car with your child such as **Triangle Math Facts**. Give three numbers from a combination and the child names the associated facts. For example, Adult says, "Three, nine, twenty-seven." Child answers, " $3 \times 9 = 27$, $9 \times 3 = 27$, $27 \div 9 = 3$ or $27 \div 3 = 9$."



January 29, 2017

Elliott's Events

Mrs. Elliott: 3B

julie.elliott@thompsonschoools.org

613-5749

www.3b2011.wikispaces.com



Hello Families,

In an attempt to help the students focus on beginning with the end in mind, we are spending more time focusing on our 3rd quarter "wildly important goals" (WIGS). Each morning, after the students unpack, they meet with their accountability partners and discuss celebrations from the previous day, and they think of one action they will take during the current day to get themselves closer to achieving their third quarter WIGS. This would be a great conversation to have at home each day as well!

Speaking of WIGS, our 3rd quarter math WIG is for the students to be able to solve multi-digit addition and subtraction problems accurately. Three of our students have already achieved this goal! Place value and multi-digit addition and subtraction will be the focus of our next unit so I'm sure it won't be long before many more students are reaching this goal as well.

Although our math WIG for this quarter does not involve multiplication and division, it is extremely important for the students to continue to practice their facts as part of their nightly homework. Please see the back of this newsletter for more information on achieving multiplication and division fact fluency.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email. Julie.elliott@thompsonschoools.org or 613-5749

Life in 3rd Grade:

Math: We've been working on our fraction unit. The students have been comparing fractions, identifying equivalent fractions, and solving fraction problems. We have been using a lot of visuals and models such as fraction bars and fraction strips to help the students grasp this complicated concept. Our unit test will be on Tuesday. As a reward for working hard to demonstrate understanding of fractions, Dr. Martin will buy us pizza (a great example of real life fractions) to snack on later in the week. The students will have to earn it, though!

Writing: We have been studying the narrative structure with a focus on folktales. The students will begin to plan their own folktales this week. They will all be writing a story to explain how giraffes got long necks.

Reading: We have been focusing on how author's give us clues about character traits and feelings. We worked together to study character traits in two stories, and then students worked to discover character traits for a character in their own self-selected books. This week we will review some of the standards we have worked on so far this year.

Social Studies: We have been working on studying the natural and cultural features of the seven continents. This week the students will create a map of an imaginary continent and then write an informational essay to describe the location, and the natural and cultural features of their continent.

Things to Note...

Carnival

Our CMES school carnival will be on Friday night from 5:30-8:00. There will be an auction, food, and games. We hope everyone can come out and join the fun! Thanks so much to those of you who donated items for our 3B basket!

Schools on the Move

The Schools on the Move challenge starts on Thursday, Feb. 1. Please keep track of your child's progress towards the 5210 challenges on his/her calendar. Schools that have the highest percentage of student participation can earn money towards new P.E. equipment!

HABIT OF THE WEEK:

Be Proactive

Specials Schedule:



Monday: Library 10:30-11:30

Tuesday: Art 10:30-11:30
Counselor 1:30-2:00

Wednesday: Computer 10:30-11:30

Thursday: Music 10:30-11:00
P.E. 11:00-11:30

Friday: Music, 10:30-11:00
P.E. 11:00-11:30

School-Home Connection

Freddy's Frozen Custard/Steakburger Fundraiser: 1/30 4:00-8:00

Caught Leading Assembly: 1/31

CMES School Carnival: 2/2 5:30-8:00PM

Valentine's Day Classroom Party: 2/14 @ 3:00

CMES Leader in Me Family Night: 2/15 @ 5PM

The
Leader in Me™
great happens here