

JOHNSON'S JOURNAL

September 8, 2014

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are off and running in third grade. We have had a good start to the school year. The students have learned many new routines and have made new friends. Thank you for the privilege of working with your child. I'm looking forward to a great year.

Parent night is this Thursday! I'll hold an informational meeting for parents on September 11 at 6:00 P.M. in my classroom (room 12). I plan to go over third grade expectations, frequently-asked questions, and some procedures. I hope that you can attend.

The children have spent time taking the following baseline assessments: math (multiple assessments), writing, and spelling. Reading assessments will take place this week. I will go over the assessment data at the parent-teacher conferences in October.

Speaking of assessments, big changes are coming to the MEAP. One of the biggest changes is that Michigan will now test students in the spring in order to measure their growth for the current year. Our test dates will be May 19-20 & 27-28. More information about the testing can be found in the [Assessments](#) section on our classroom website.

Reading

Students will participate in a reading workshop this year. They will have opportunities to read and respond to self-selected books and to teacher-selected texts. A great deal of the workshop time will be spent giving students opportunities to read independently. Also, there will be whole- and small-group instruction.

Since our reading this year is more demanding, the students have **a standing homework assignment**

to read a minimum of 20 minutes every night.

We will talk more about reading expectations at our upcoming parent night, and more information can be found in the [Reading](#) section of our website.

Writing

The students are participating in a rigorous writing workshop this year. They are currently learning techniques to generate story ideas for writing personal narratives, which are stories about their lives. Our website contains more information about our [writing curriculum](#).

Mathematics

Students have been busy taking some baseline assessments and reviewing some of last year's lessons. Our first unit in math will be *place value*. Other topics to be covered in math this year can be found [here](#).

Science

Our first unit in [science](#) is on animals. Next week, we'll go on a field trip to the Chippewa Nature Center to learn about animal adaptations and classifications. Field trip information is attached to the front of this newsletter.

Spelling

We have been reviewing and assessing basic spelling concepts. The first spelling list will go home soon.

Book Orders

Two book orders went home on Thursday. Many more titles (including books at/above/below grade level) are available online. [Book ordering information](#) is available on our website.

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Specials Schedule

(Schedule also available on our website.)

Monday	Library Checkout & Library Skills
Tuesday	Physical Education
Wednesday	Art
Thursday	Music
Friday	Physical Education & Computer Lab

Lunch & Recess Schedule

Lunch & Recess 11:40 - 12:34

Important Dates

September 11

Parent Night (6:00 P.M. in room 12)

September 16

Field Trip to Chippewa Nature Center
(Depart 9:10 & return 11:40)

October 9

Picture Day
(More information coming soon.)

October 10

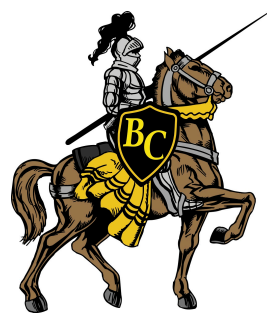
No School (Prof. Development Day for Teachers)

October 20 & 23

Parent-Teacher Conferences
(More information coming soon.)

October 31

Halloween Party (1:00-2:15 PM)
More [holiday party information](#) can be found on our website.



You
BELONG
at
Bullock
Creek

Mark Your Calendars!

May 19 & 20

Michigan's 3rd Grade State Assessments:
English Language Arts, Parts 1 & 2
(Approximately 4 hours each day)

May 27 & 28

Michigan's 3rd Grade State Assessments:
Mathematics, Parts 1 & 2
(Approximately 3 hours each day)

*Upon the education of the people of this country
the fate of this country depends.*

Benjamin Disraeli