



PARENT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2, 2009

¡Hola a todos! We are starting our second unit of inquiry about ancient civilizations. We will study various civilizations, such as China, Greece, Egypt, Aztec and others. Students will begin to understand how civilizations change over time, what contributions these ancient civilizations made to societies today, and different perspectives we find in the histories told. Please feel free to send any resources we may be able to use in class - photos, books, magazines, etc.

In math, we are continuing to work on geometry, now focusing on symmetry and congruency. We will have our unit 6 test during the week following Spring Break.

The MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) tests are coming up in the end of April, as many of you have been anticipating. These tests measure students' progress toward state academic standards and are required throughout Minnesota. These tests begin in third grade and continue through students' education. We will have 3 testing days for the subjects of Math and Reading, which will take place on April 27, 28, and 29. I will send more details in the weeks to come, however, you can visit the MN Department of Education's website for more information:

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/MCA/index.html

In preparation for these tests, I have been working with students on various areas that will be tested, and have recently found an excellent online resource for further preparation (not solely for the tests, but just general knowledge that third graders should know). If you have a chance over Spring Break or the weeks before the MCAs, I would highly recommend that your child visit the following site and practice some of the skills highlighted.

http://www.tangischools.org/schools/les/3rd_grade_skills.htm

Here are some skills I would suggest practicing (on the site or at home): Capitalization/Punctuation, Parts of Speech, Elapsed Time, Expressions and Variable in Math, What's the Change?, Root Words, multiplication, division, fraction, geometry or graphing games, comprehension, and so on.

Reminders:

There will be no school next week, during our Spring Break, April 6-10.
Remember to sign up for ISLA summer camp!

Upcoming Events:

April 6-10: NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

April 13: PTO Meeting

April 21: McDonald's Night

April 27-29: MCA testing