

**Dear Parents,**

Your child will be participating in the following English Language Arts units of study this quarter:

**Stories Worth Telling Again and Again****Inspired by the Sea****Reading Literature and Informational Text**

After reading stories such as folktales, fables and myths, students will practice determining the central message, lesson or moral. They will learn to describe characters, focusing on characters' traits, motivations and feelings. Students will ask and answer questions (*who, what, where, when, why*) about key details to ensure understanding and learn to use text features such as sidebars and hyperlinks.

**Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)**

Students will use knowledge of the meaning of common prefixes (dis-, pre-) and suffixes (-ing, -ly) and practice dividing words into syllables to help them read and understand words. Students will read books and poems fluently with purpose and understanding.

**Writing**

Students will write stories using a sequence of events that makes sense, include dialogue, and describe character's actions, thoughts, and feelings. They will use words such as *then, later*, and *the next day* to indicate the order of events in their writing. With help, students will organize writing according to its purpose, and will improve their writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. They will take notes as they gather information from print and technology and will use technology to publish their writing.

**Listening and Speaking**

Students will follow rules for classroom discussions. They will speak in complete sentences when reporting on a topic, telling a story or describing an experience; provide appropriate details; ask questions to understand the discussion, and stay on topic. They will determine the main idea and supporting details while listening to material that is read aloud, and will ask and answer questions about information from a speaker.

**Language (Conventions of Standard English)**

Students will explain how nouns, pronouns, and adjectives are used in speaking and writing. They will form and use nouns that mean more than one (*group, herd, flock*), capitalize words in titles, and determine the meaning of words and phrases in third grade texts and topics.

**Handwriting & Keyboarding**

Third graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. This quarter, students will review the formation of lowercase cursive letters. They will write words in cursive and self-assess their writing using model letters and words. When using the keyboard, students will practice using the home keys while typing words and sentences with punctuation. They will begin typing high-frequency words without looking at the keyboard. Students will learn to create, save and retrieve files.