

Third Grade ACE Resource Program

Journey Books

Please review your child's journey book and return it back to school with your child tomorrow. It contains samples of some of the work done in ACE during this year. Many lessons and activities that are done in class cannot be reproduced. Please ask your child what we have been working on as well.

Third Quarter

Here are the latest updates on what your child will be learning during ACE resource this quarter. Lessons and units are planned that will help expand learning by enabling students to use and develop critical thinking skills as well as stimulate their creativity.

Language Arts/Social Studies

Third grade students will be continuing to participate in a multidisciplinary program throughout the rest of the year, called Mini-Society. This is an experience-based program developed by Dr. Marilyn Kourilsky, a professor at UCLA and Vice President of the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The program has been endorsed by the United States Department of Education.

In this innovative program, students will establish their own society, print their own money, open their own businesses, and create their own government. This experience will help your child understand more about entrepreneurship, economics, government, law, math, and ethics.

In addition to the subject-area learning's, the children will experience several side benefits. They will work cooperatively and actively in problem solving-trying to find creative and workable to solutions to the numerous problems that occur in any society. Each student will have a voice in the decision-making process through the debriefings (group discussion meetings).

We will be holding a Mini-Society Market Day later in the spring.

You can be a great help in this program by not allowing your child to take things for Mini-Society from home without making some sort of payment. She or he can make payment through services or allowances. A \$10 limit is set for the year, although I am not advocating that you spend \$10 on your child's class. This is the absolute maximum any child can spend. What we want to foster are entrepreneurial qualities and creative ideas in children. They should be encouraged to think in terms of products or services they can sell or things they can create with little or no money. Your child will receive detailed information about the Market Day at a later date.

Foreign Language

French-Bonjour! The students will also continue studying basic French during the this quarter. The topics included during this time include greetings, colors, numbers and the French alphabet. Au revoir!

Math/Science

We will continue to work on the "Hands-On Equations" unit. The "Hands-On Equations" methodology provides an entranceway to algebra. Students transform the given abstract equation using manipulatives, and then proceed to solve the given equation using hands-on "legal moves".

Early success with algebraic concepts provides students with a tremendous sense of mathematical power and self-confidence, increases students' mathematical interests, and provides students with an intuitive and concrete foundation for later algebraic work in higher grades.

LEGO® Education WeDo

Thanks to the profits made from the ACE Fund-raisers, we were able to purchase the LEGO® Education WeDo™ systems. The LEGO® Education WeDo™ is a new robotics product that facilitates a

hands-on, minds-on learning experience for elementary school students 7-11 years of age. The WeDo concept actively involves students and promotes children's creative thinking, team-work and problem solving skills. Working in teams, the children invent their own solution by building a LEGO model and programming it to perform a certain task.

The Activity pack includes 12 activities based on four themes: Soccer, Adventure Stories, Wild Animal Park and Mechanical Toys. Designed to cover a broad range of curriculum areas, topics covered include:

- Language and literacy: narrative and journalistic writing, storytelling, explaining, interviewing and interpreting

- Mathematics: measuring time and distance; adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, estimating, randomness; using variables

- Science: working with simple machines, gears, levers, pulleys; transmission of motion

- Technology: programming; using software media; designing and creating a working model.

We look forward to incorporating the LEGO WeDo into our pull-out resource time!

Thank you in advance for your interest in your child's curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or if you have questions regarding these programs, I will be happy to answer them. Feel free to contact me at your convenience at 966.9663, extension 5221 or email me at aestis@nkcps.k12.va.us.