Notes & News

### Mrs. Shockley’s

3rd Grade Class

# A New Year & a Fresh Start

|  |
| --- |
| Welcome Back! |
| Celebrations |
| Dates to Highlight |
|   |
| Brrr, It’s Sure Cold! |
| Getting Stronger |
| Mid-Year Testing |

## So Many Reasons to Cheer

Inside this issue:

Welcome back! I hope that each of your families had a wonderful break celebrating one another and the holidays that draw you together. My hope is that 2018 has gotten off to a remarkable start for each of you. Enjoy getting some rest now that the kids have returned to school. ☺

Thank you, once again, for your many kindnesses this holiday season. I really appreciate the thoughtful notes and gifts I received from you and the children. You touched my heart and I am deeply grateful.

The past few days gave us the chance to ease back into our school groove. We’re working to get back to our A-game as soon as possible because we have a lot to accomplish over the next few weeks.

One of the reasons for the success seen in our classroom is your strong parent support. Thank you for the many ways you take initiative to make our room such a special place. As we begin this new calendar year, please save some time for us in your busy schedules. If you haven’t had the opportunity before now, we’d love to have you as a Family Favorites Reader or a special areas volunteer. See our class web page or contact our room parents, Trina Cone or Kerri Porter, for more information. Thank you in advance for your willingness to lend a hand.

Monday,

January 8, 2018

Mark Your Calendar

* **MON 1/15** MLK Day Holiday / No School
* **FRI 1/19** End of 2nd Quarter
* **MON 1/22** Teacher Workday
* **WED 1/24** 3rd Grade MAP Testing / Reading
* **THUR 1/25** 3rd Grade MAP Testing / Math
* **FRI 1/26** Character Ed Assembly
* **THUR 2/1** Class Pictures
* **FRI 2/2 –** Report Cards Sent



Sensational scholarship, a commitment to character, making memories - your children are making their mark at Selwyn this year! We all enjoyed “meeting” your families through the work students did for their Interview Projects. Bravo!

For December, our character focus was on caring [showing concern for the well-being of others]. Austin H. and Sedona B. were obvious choices as classroom examples of this. This month we’ll be examining justice & fairness. Destiny L. and Wortham C. do a great job of illustrating these traits to us. Congratulations to all!

Thanks to all who have helped us create special memories by helping us bake cookies, planning festive parties, leading Junior Achievement lessons - & so much more.

A new calendar year and the (almost!) mid-way point of our academic year are great impetuses for firming up scholarly habits that lead to success. Reading daily, completing homework, consistently giving best effort on assignments, finishing and turning in work in a timely manner, and being a considerate and cooperative classmate are all hallmarks of an accomplished third grader.

With the start of the new semester, student literacy workshop time will expand to include a spelling and vocabulary component. Details about homework associated with this will be forthcoming.

To prepare students for the problems they can expect to see on their EOG later this year, they will have new math homework practice to do at home. This will begin next week. This month third grade has begun our multiplication units. Students are encouraged to begin practice at memorizing equations through twelve.

In all academic areas students should be exhibiting more and more stamina (both time on task and effort expended). I ask that you help by monitoring your child’s fortitude when tackling daily reading and homework. Thanks!

Winter has made its presence known with daily temperatures that have yet to rise above freezing. Please send your children to school with clothes appropriate for the chill outside (coat, hat, scarf, gloves) and inside (sweater or sweatshirt). Thank you!

Here are some ideas for keeping your kiddos/family busy and connected throughout the cold upcoming months:

* Visit the library. Our renovated Morrison branch has reopened!
* Write letters. Thank you notes for holiday gifts are a great place to start.
* Visit a museum. The Mint Museum (both uptown & Randolph locations) are free each Wednesday from 5 – 9. Also, they have Sunday Fun Days monthly (see website for details & dates). The Wells Fargo History Museum (401 S. Tryon) is always free (Tues – Sat, 9:00 – 5:00)
* Cook together. This is a good way to experience math in real life.
* Try your hand at arts and crafts. Get that right side of the brain plugged in!
* Plan a family game night. This is a fun way to teach strategy and the importance of following directions.
* Help you family engage with our community through service. To find local organizations that could use your help go to: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/living/helping-others/giving-guide/article185593263.html>

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

**- Aristotle**

## Taking Time to Assess and Adjust

January is a time set aside by the state and the school system to conduct mid-year assessments. Beginning this past Friday and through the beginning of next month we will be involved with our Reading 3D [TRC] testing. Students will also be taking their MOY MAP tests. Third grade will do this on Wednesday 1/24 (Reading) and Thursday 1/25 (Math). In addition to devoting time to this we will be addressing new curriculum objectives (while also reviewing old ones) and conducting classroom mid-year evaluations. Please take these testing dates into consideration when making any decisions about late arrivals, early dismissals or days absent for travel. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## Strength & Stamina Training for Scholars

## Man, Oh Man, it’s Cold Outside!