

June 11, 2017

Dear Brand New Third Grade Parents:

I want to introduce myself to you and tell you about summer reading for the incoming Third Graders. To those of you who've had children in my class before, welcome back! My first teaching job was in a one-room schoolhouse in the Los Padres Wilderness and later I taught Third Grade at Alvarado Elementary in Noe Valley. I've been at The San Francisco School since 1986, when I came as a drama specialist for the pre-school. I taught Fourth and Fifth grade during my first year as a head teacher and have spent the rest of my tenure here in Third Grade. I look forward to working with your youngsters!

Reading project: Please help your child find a biography at their reading level to read and report on. I enclose a biography report for your child to fill out—you can help with comprehension and spelling. The report can be handed in in the fall.

Please make sure that your child continues to read and be read to over the summer as a child's reading level can slip as much as a year over the summer without practice. Please take a look at the back of this sheet for some ideas. **It will be important for a strong start in Third Grade for your child to know the addition and subtraction facts by heart as we will be moving on to one and two-digit multiplication and division.** Please help with this with flash cards and practice at home if the facts haven't yet been mastered. I am including an order form for 2nd grade math review that you may want to provide for your child to work on over the summer.

In thinking about the fall, your child will not need a binder in Third Grade. We hand out a homework packet on Monday, to be returned on Friday. A daypack will be helpful. I have 175 days with your child and will need every one of them in order to provide a complete Third Grade experience! Please schedule your family holidays during the times we've provided in the calendar. I'd like for each child to be at school unless they are ill or there is a family or medical emergency. Being on time consistently will also help ensure your child is engaged fully in the classroom activities. I meet each child at the door at 8:30 to shake hands and exchange a few words. In Morning Meeting, the children learn about the day, review math facts and enjoy a language arts activity, answer a "Question of the Day" and have a chance to be chosen as the "Person of the Day."

I'm pleased to say that Luke Bailey will be continuing with this class next year as the Third Grade Teaching Assistant. He is a fine teacher and a wonderful human being and I appreciate the continuity he will provide for this class.

I'm looking forward to a restful summer and then to seeing you all in the fall!

Sincerely,



Laura Burges

Third Grade Head Teacher