Back to School!
We have had a terrific start to third grade! We have been impressed by how quickly students have learned new and challenging routines such as switching classes, managing materials and book boxes, getting to know classmates and teachers, and all of the new responsibilities of third grade. Thank you for the support you are providing us at home.

Here’s what is happening in our classrooms:

Math
Mrs. Clinage’s and Ms. Case’s classes are in the middle of their first math unit. In this unit, the students build on their knowledge of two- and three-digit numbers and explore how those understandings extend to four-digit numbers. The children will continue to build meaning for addition and subtraction through problem solving and an exploration of the identity and commutative properties. These concepts are reinforced as students apply their mental math strategies to working with money. Both classes have begun guided math “centers,” which gives teachers the opportunity to work with small groups and individual students on a regular basis. During our second unit, the students will begin to explore the ideas of multiplication and division by solving real world problems that involve composing and decomposing units into groups.

Language Arts
Mrs. Clinage’s and Ms. Case’s students are learning and practicing various literacy routines, like independent reading, buddy reading, and listening to reading so the students are engaged in various meaningful activities while the teacher meet with reading groups. We’re eager to start our guided reading groups soon. In all classes, teachers have been working on building a community of readers and writers. Students have learned the routines of writing workshop and understand how they benefit from and contribute to their community. They have and will continue to develop important skills and understandings, such as deciding the tools they need when working independently, gathering ideas, choosing writing pieces to develop further, and receiving and providing feedback.

AAP Math & Language Arts
In AAP we are introducing our first grammar program, called Grammar Island, wherein we learn about the eight parts of the English language. The program covers grammar, composition, and poetry at more challenging levels than are typically found in comparable texts. Students have also worked on introductory lessons on the nine critical and creative thinking skills. In Math, students have been building on their knowledge of two- and three-digit numbers and exploring how those understandings extend to four-digit numbers. Students will continue to build meaning for addition and subtraction through problem solving and exploration of the identity and commutative properties of addition. These concepts are reinforced as students apply their strategies to working with money. Our next unit will be on Multiplication and Division. In this unit, students will begin to explore the ideas of multiplication and division. They will represent multiplication and division problems and develop understandings of the inverse relationship between multiplication and division.
Third Grade News (cont’d)

Social Studies

We started off the year talking about Civics which included laws vs. rules, rights vs. responsibilities, the government and diversity. We will then learn about geography in social studies. We will learn about the features of maps and globes, compass directions and how to name and locate the continents and oceans. We’ll be exploring geography all year as we study different ancient civilizations.

Science

We’re excited to be getting our delivery of ladybug larvae soon! We will watch our ladybugs grow and change as we learn about life cycles of all living things. For this unit, students will be asked to become ecologists and design a habitat for their very own newly created animal through an exciting project based learning experience!

Volunteer Opportunity

Students at Wolftrap will be engaging in authentic project experiences with real-world job titles throughout this school year. An important aspect of this method of instruction is for students to present their projects to an authentic audience (i.e. if a project requires a student to become a lawyer, the most authentic opportunity would be for them to present to actual lawyers in the community). If you would like to share your occupation with the Wolftrap community, and be willing to be contacted as an audience member, please fill out the form below! Please note that this is completely VOLUNTARY.

Important October Upcoming Dates

4 International Walk to School Day
9 Columbus Day Holiday (no school)
10 Dining for Dollars—Social Burger
12 PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
16 Field Trip to the Children’s Science Museum
19 Fall Pictures
20 Pizza Bingo Night