

March Newsletter

March 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

-The **March Scholastic book orders (Lucky and Spring Gift Books)** that I am sending home today will be due back in school by next Tuesday, March 6th.

We have begun a really cool, fun, *interesting* unit that I've developed over the years, called **The Iditarod**! It's about an annual dog sled race in Alaska, so the children will be learning about Alaska, Inuit Native Americans, sled dogs and sleds, training for the Iditarod, checkpoints, veterinarians, mushers, and much more! (Balto, the movie, is based on a true story about the diphtheria epidemic in Nome, Alaska in 1925, and the Iditarod was begun to commemorate the dog sled relay that saved the lives of many children in Nome. So cool!)



The Iditarod app is free for your smartphone, and the website is www.iditarod.com. On Friday, the children will each be choosing a musher to follow, and they'll be putting their musher on a sled which will move along the trail through the race; on the website at home, you can follow the musher that your child chooses, if you wish.

- **NYS Testing- Spring** is almost here, and with Spring come the tests that will be given to all students in New York State (on the same days, at the same time). The ELA test will be April 11th-12th, and the Math test will be May 1st-2nd. Our preparation for these exams has been ongoing all year. We've done much work on writing, using punctuation and capitals correctly, writing detailed sentences, and constructing opinion, narrative, and explanatory paragraphs and short essays. In addition, the goal is for the children to be fluent readers, able to comprehend what they're reading. I do not want your children stressing over these tests- they are a 3rd grade test, and I simply want the children to do their best. That is all I ask, and that is what we want them to do in life. My goal is that they each complete the test with self-confidence and satisfaction.



In math, we have just begun a unit on measurement, followed by area, then fractions, and while we'll be spending time reviewing things learned way back in the fall before the state tests, there is still much to be learned this year.

Please take a look at the calendar that went home yesterday - there are lots of things going on in March.

-**PARP begins this Friday!** This Friday is the kick-off and reading for PARP begins Friday night. Please encourage your child to participate. I would love to have 100% of our class participate! Together with your child, please look over the PARP packet that is coming home Friday, choose activities, and make notes of deadlines for turning in different activity forms.



-**Spring is almost here, although this year the seasons and weather have been so mixed up, I'm not sure we'd even know when Spring does officially start.**

Sincerely, and appreciating all you do,

Mrs. Faxlanger

