



Dear Parents,

Can you believe it? Your child is in the **third grade!** How did they get that old? Wasn't it just yesterday they were starting kindergarten?

Well, time marches on and, believe it or not, your child is ready for this! In third grade they will become better at reading, writing, spelling and math. They will have fun learning about Spiders, Space and Sports. For every subject and skill, you are their best cheerleader and mentor. That is one thing that will never change.

Here are some things that will make each week easier for your child and for us. Help your child to study their spelling words. The funny thing about English is that only about a third of the words follow a spelling rule. The rest we have to memorize. So we try to do both. We have a spelling program that is just about phonics and rules. And we send a list of words home for your child to practice and memorize. That way we cover all the bases. The list goes home on Friday and the test is on the next Friday.

Another discipline we encourage is daily reading. Your child will bring a paper home each week to keep track of the time they spend reading. This needs to come back to me on Friday with your signature

on it. There will be days when taking time to read is just too much. So skip it that day. But be sure to catch up the next day. Reading should be enjoyable. If your child wants you to read to them, please do it. I enjoyed reading to my children even when they were in middle school. They are avid readers today and I believe I helped by reading to them.

Math! In the letters your children wrote to me last spring, a majority of them said they love math. Math is exciting and sometimes confusing. You make it easier for your child by practicing their skills with them. We need to help them with basics like telling time, making change or counting money, and by memorizing facts. If they feel confident in those areas, the rest comes easier. These are life-long skills that your children have to master. Take five minutes a day to help them.

To help you and your child organize their time, we send home a daily planner. It is our way of communicating with you. Please sign it every day and we will do the same.

Today really *is* the first day of the rest of their lives. We are committed to making this year a great one. Please email me or call before or after school if I can help you in any way.

Welcome to Third Grade.

Barbara Winslow

