

December, 2008

Hello, Parents!

December greetings to all of you! How the school year is flying by! We are really enjoying getting to know your children as we learn and grow together!

Thank you for your support of our field trip to the CU Museum, where we got to experience some hands-on activities which helped us better understand the Anasazi, who first lived in Colorado. Now we are moving on to learn about the Utes, who lived in the mountains, as well as various Plains tribes.

In science, we are in the midst of a unit on "Earth Materials", where the students learn to observe different properties of rocks and minerals. When you are out on a walk with your child, they could pick up a rock and tell you a little about what they are learning!

Our literacy groups are beginning to read some legends of the Native Americans, as well as working on our reading skills, fluency, and grammar. We have been presenting to audiences the research we did on Colorado animals. Many of these posters and books are up in the halls for your reading enjoyment!

Our math studies are geared to meet each child's needs, and we are focusing on the subject of "Things that come in Groups", which introduces multiplication. We continue to work on many elements of "number sense", which you can practice with your children. Count forward and backward by 2, 5, and 10 and ask them, "What comes before 41?" etc. Keep on working on those addition and subtraction facts like  $9+8=17$  and  $17-9=8$ , which help them in many areas!

Thanks to all of you who are participating in TODOS, PTA, the Visioning for our new school, and helping out in other ways! Together we are a great team working for the best for your children!

Sincerely,  
The Third Grade Team

