

# Third Grade News

Claymont Elementary School

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3401 Green Street, Claymont, Delaware 19703 Phone: (302)792-3880



## Reading News

We are continuing to read fiction and nonfiction chapter books daily. Our current book is, *And Then What Happened to Paul Revere*. Our next book will be, *Eduard Tulane's Miraculous Journey*, which is the most popular novel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period. It will stir the students to think about being authors and creating their own special characters. In addition to reading, students will continue to write daily written responses for 15 minutes.

## Math News



We are focusing on fractions on a number line, collecting and displaying data and geometry and measurement word problems. It is important that they review multiplication fluency, addition and subtraction with regrouping at home. Students must take their time to read math problems thoroughly to understand what they are asked to do.

## Writing News

What academic area would you guess is equally difficult for our most supported learners and our highest skilled students? Writing. It's an unruly animal that, for many students, can't be tamed. So we wanted families to take a glimpse at third grade writing expectations with a focus on essays.

### Beginning

1. Topic: Give some background information that may be interesting. To capture the reader's attention, create a picture or unusual image, or ask a question. Dialogue and action are more difficult, but these are options as a writer progresses

2. Purpose: Why are you writing?  
To give an opinion/persuade?  
To learn or decide through comparing and contrasting?  
(One kind of Informative writing)

### Middle

Think about a stoplight for each of the 3 body paragraphs, each of which should have about 3 solid details.

1. Green- Go! State your first idea about the purpose  
TOPIC SENTENCE.

2. Yellow-slow down. Give a detail about the topic-  
Detail Sentence 1. Use transition words or phrase (First, Another)

3. RED Stop! Explain, Elaborate, give an Example offer a personal Experience about the detail. Say something more. Use transitions as needed (for example, in addition) this development of ideas is the most challenging part. To explain is not to repeat!

Continue with detail sentences 2 and 3. Each should have further explanation or elaboration.

Though the above are the main focus, we still want a sentence to conclude the paragraph sentence. There's no clever way to add it to the stoplight.

### End

If you want to buy the classroom teacher a gift, make sure your child does not say "The end" or "I hope you liked..." Instead they should:

1. Restate the purpose
2. Leave the reader something to think about.

Did you know that your child could be asked to write 4 essays on the state test at year's end? They will need to cite at least 2 sources (articles, poems,.. etc.) They could be asked to begin or end someone else's essay or write a story about information they research during the test. This is just a part of it! Know what your child should learn each year at [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org). Select "Read the standards", scroll down to ELA and Math standards.

### Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 12- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking period  
Report card distributed

Feb 15- Parent Conferences  
(School Closed)

Feb. 18- President's Day  
(School Closed)

March 1- Field Trip –Christina  
Skating Rink

April 4- End of 3rd marking  
period

## Helpful Websites

Dream box:  
<https://play.dreambox.com/login/hqpz/8bas> (iPad School Code: hqpz/8bas)

Moby Max:  
<https://www.mobymax.com/signin>

Khan academy:  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Smarter Balance practice tests:  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/>

