

The Third Grade Bergstrom Buzz

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Upcoming events:

- *Winter vacation from Saturday, February 20th through Tuesday, March 2nd.*
- *Family Learning night (preK-8) at ADL, March 24, 6:30-8pm.*
- *Art integration project Friday, March 5th & 12th at 1:15. PARENT VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!*



Abenaki Websites:

Learn the language:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~abenaki/Wobanaki/>

[Learn about the tribes in Vermont and read more legends:](#)

<http://www.abenakination.org/front.html>

Reading and Writing Workshop

If you get a chance, please come into our school and read our latest published writing pieces that are hanging on the bulletin board outside of our classroom. We had a publishing party last week to celebrate our painted essay reports. We spent weeks learning about how to craft thesis statements and how to provide evidence to support those thesis statements. We wrote about our pets, our beliefs, our family members and more!

We are now learning how to write procedural writing pieces. We are looking at many different kinds of texts that teach us how to do things, and we are going

to use those texts as models for our own “how to” writing pieces.

We’ve also started independent writing projects where the children get to choose their own genre and topic to write about. Each student has a contract and a plan for his/her writing piece. When the students have finished working on whatever task I’ve assigned for their procedure piece during writing, he/she can work on the independent project. The children are very excited about these pieces!

In reading we’ve been working on improving our reading letters by sharing



our thinking all throughout the letter, and by providing **evidence** for our thinking. Over the next few weeks we are going to be focusing on making inferences about how a character feels or why he does something based on **evidence** from the text. As you read with your child at home, ask inferring questions and ask **WHY** your child thinks that. Making inferences is an important higher level thinking skill.

A Visit from Mrs. Dow

On Friday, February 5th, Judy Dow spent the afternoon with Mrs. Heikel’s and our class teaching us about the native people that have lived and continue to live in the Champlain Valley. She had many unique artifacts from the Paleolithic, the Archaic,

and the Woodland period, to show us. These artifacts include the atlatl (spear thrower), birch bark baskets, arrowheads, and tanned hide, among many other things. She had many interesting stories to tell us and she taught us how to cord rope as well as how to make the original

hacky-sack. It was a fun and interesting afternoon. In March we are going to start an art integration project where we use the Abenaki crafts we’ve created to help us tell a story or legend. We’d love parent volunteers to help us with the craft making on March 5th and 12th at 1:15.