

The Third Grade Bergstrom Buzz

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From Maps to Matter

Upcoming events:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 23rd from 1-8PM and Tuesday, November 24th from 8AM-3PM.
- No School for children the week of November 23rd.



Matter Websites:

<http://www.fossweb.com/modulesK-2/SolidsandLiquids/index.html>

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/studyjams/matter_states/

This week we completed our two week unit on maps. We looked at a lot of different types of maps and we examined maps of our world, our continent, our country, our state, our town, and the Lake Champlain Valley. We had fun drawing a map of our bedroom, trying to picture the important parts of our bedroom in our heads. It was difficult to think about which direction was North, South, East and West, but it helped us to think about what time of day sun comes in

our window. We figured out that our classroom windows face east since we get such bright morning sun through them. This helped us to determine the other important directions on a compass rose.

We now dive back into a science unit called Matter Matters! We will be exploring what matter is, how the properties of solids, liquids, and gases differ, and what causes changes in the states of matter. Encourage your child to explore matter in



and around your home, especially while you are cooking or when the snow starts coming. It is going to be an exciting unit!

Literature Circles

We started our first round of literature circles this week. Literature circles are student-directed groups of children who read and discuss a book of their choice together. For the purpose of introducing literature circles, I am having the children all read *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardner.

I have checked the audio version of the book out of the library so that all students can listen to the story and participate in discussions.

After we read the first two chapters we wrote down the important narrative elements from the story and discussed our ideas in

groups of 4 or 5. The room was abuzz with conversation! Afterward, we reflected on how we did, we recognized what we did well, and set goals to improve our next meeting. Ask your child about *Stone Fox* and how his/her literature circle conversations have been going.