



Gifted Services Newsletter - Ashlawn Elementary School
Grade 3
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[APS - Parent Resources and Organizations Supporting Gifted Learners](#)

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During the 3rd Quarter, 3rd Grade students had the opportunity for daily differentiation to meet their learning needs. Please read below to see how 3rd grade teachers adjusted the general education curriculum to provide these daily learning opportunities!

In **Language Arts** this quarter, the units included Ancient Roman Civilization and Light and Sound. Some students had the opportunity to participate in a **Book Study** by joining a small group where they read the same book, prepared for the group with discussion starters and questions, and engaged in discussion about the book using higher level thinking skills (often SEM-R questions). Students in each class had the opportunity to participate in **Document Based Questioning (DBQ)** units. A **DBQ** unit teaches students how to recognize different types of primary source documents and how to analyze them by taking a guided tour of some interesting documents and creating an authentic product at the end of the unit. Students in Ms. Hoffer's class and Ms. Klaus's class worked on the DBQ **"Why Should we Protect the Wolf?"** In this unit, students learn that wolves could once be found throughout North America. In the United States, they now live in just a handful of states. Students will examine documents that explore reasons why wolves need protection. They then decide why people should protect wolves and back up their opinion with evidence from the documents they read. Students in Mr. Strohl's class worked on the DBQ **"Was Grimm too Grim?"** Students were introduced to Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, also called the Brothers Grimm, who are well known for their folk tales. They collected these stories in Germany in the early 19th century. At the time the tales were published, some people were upset. They felt these were *not* proper stories for children. In this Mini-Q, students read some of the tales from the Grimms' original book. They then decided whether they are appropriate for young readers. And, in Mr. Dallas's class students worked on the DBQ **"How Can Your School Reduce Food Waste?"** Students examined documents detailing studies that show food waste is a problem. They learned that students throw away nearly one-third of their lunchroom food each day. First, students participated in a food-waste survey. Then they explored several ways schools can help fix this problem. Finally, students were able to take on the role of Roman Senators and propose their bills to change food waste at Ashlawn to Ms. Neary.

Another strategy that was used in Language Arts this quarter was the **Socratic Seminar**. This is a method to try to understand information by creating a dialectic class in regards to a

specific text. In a Socratic Seminar, participants seek deeper understanding of complex ideas in the text through rigorously thoughtful dialogue. This process encourages divergent thinking rather than convergent. **Socratic Questioning** is a model for student discussion that focuses on critical thinking, respecting other students' viewpoints, and looking for deep understanding. Goals are for students to lead discussion, and to be challenged, yet comfortable in answering questions honestly and fully in front of their peers.

In addition, students had access to many **ReadWorks** articles that are paired with CKLA's reading units. These articles help to build background knowledge, extend learning, and challenge students.

The **Math** units this quarter focused on number sense while using fractions, geometry, and a second unit on multiplication and division. Students had many advanced opportunities in math during Quarter 3. Some of these include:

Curriculum Extensions: Curriculum extensions are a means of "extending" the depth or breadth of the curriculum in order to add rigor and complexity to the learning of advanced learners.

Sum Squares using Small Group Cooperative problem solving: Sum Square is **an addition logic puzzle game** where you must move numerical tile values into play on a board to equal the target number.

Groundworks: Groundworks: Reasoning with Numbers provides students with a better awareness and understanding of how numbers and operations are related.

Groundworks: Reasoning with Geometry provides students with activities that investigate shapes, symmetry, congruence, angles, rotations, reflections, and other geometry investigations.

Continental Math League (CML): The **CML** problems allow students to solve a variety of complex story problems via the application of various strategies they have learned throughout the year.

Nimble with Numbers: Nimble with Numbers provides lively and interesting math activities for meaningful practice of high priority skills necessary for number sense, operation sense, and number competency. Students engage in games, computational skill checks, and independent activities to enhance their math learning.

Science units during Quarter 3 included Adaptations and Matter: Water Interactions. The **DBQ** units mentioned above, "**Why Should We Protect the Wolf?**" and "**How Can Your School Reduce Food Waste?**" meshed well with our science units.

In **Social Studies**, students learned about Ancient China and Ancient Greece. Students used **primary source documents**, which are original documents and objects from history. They engage students, promote inquiry, and allow students to apply critical thinking skills when analyzing an image or document. In addition, students had access to **ReadWorks** articles to extend their knowledge in Social Studies.

Outside of the classroom, Ashlawn's 3rd Grade **Odyssey of the Mind** team competed in the regional tournament on March 25th. Students worked incredibly hard for months to solve a long-term problem and practice spontaneous problems. They learned how to use their imaginations, pay attention to details, work as a team, and communicate effectively with each other and their coaches. Thank you, thank you, thank you to our 3rd Grade coaches Marissa, Chris, & Sarah for all of their work this year!

