

Third Grade News

December 2016

Dear Third Grade Families,

As part of our IB curriculum, we have begun our third unit of inquiry, “How The World Works.” The focus and central idea of the unit is, “*Earth’s nonliving resources can be used for energy.*” Throughout the unit, our lines of inquiry are:

- Properties of nonliving resources (types of rocks/soil)
- Renewable/nonrenewable energy resources
- Connection between geology and industry

Each class will attend (or has already attended) a field trip to the Shaker Heights Science Lab at Woodbury to explore how to use resources to make paper. In the classroom, students will be engaging in hands-on activities involving rocks, soil and energy. This will include looking at the different properties of rocks and soil and the different functions of energy. Students will inquire into renewable and non-renewable resources. This unit will also include an optional menu for enrichment activities that the children may use for independent development of these concepts. Please note, Mrs. Goulden will not be available for support for the enrichment menus.

We hope you will consider several ways you can support and extend our learning. First and foremost, as you talk with your child after school each day, prompt discussions with questions and topics like these: What properties did you discuss today? What energy are we using? Where does this energy come from? How can we conserve energy? Topics: properties of various living and non-living things, industries that use energy, compare and contrast the resources available in the past vs. the present, compare and contrast resources available in America vs. other countries.

If you’re interested in taking a family outing, consider going to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. You can view displays and exhibits to examine fossils and energy. Particularly interesting and relevant to our IB unit of study is the exhibit “Moon Rock.” You can view a rock that’s 3.3 billion years old! The rock contains small grains of the minerals feldspar and pyroxene. Small holes or “vugs” in the basalt are due to gas bubbles present when the lava cooled. You can also tour the “Nanotyrranus Lancensis” exhibit, which features a creature that died 65 million years ago. This fossil was found in Montana in 1942. Click on the following link for more information: <https://www.cmnh.org/>.

Sincerely,

Third Grade Teachers