

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News: Second Nine Weeks:

### Science

In our third grade science class, students will assume the role of wildlife biologists to solve the mystery of Wolf 44 -- near the fictional Graystone National Park. As wildlife biologists, students work to figure out how Wolf 44 got its traits. Ultimately, they figure out that it got the trait of fur color through inheritance, it got the trait of hunting style through interactions with its environment, and its trait for size came from both inheritance and the environment. At the end of the unit, students apply what they've learned about the influence of inheritance and the environment on traits to a different organism that lives in Graystone National Park—white-crowned sparrows. Students are presented with data about the sparrows and generate ideas about a predicted phenomenon—the traits the offspring of a particular set of parents might have. It will be an interesting nine-weeks.

### Math:

In Math, students will use place value understanding and the vertical number line to round two- and three-digit numbers. Students also add and subtract two- and three-digit numbers within 1,000 by using a variety of strategies, including the standard algorithm.

### English Language Arts:

In English Language Arts students will be reading the classic novel *Treasure Island* and a series of related texts to explore the question: Why do people hunt for treasure and what are they willing to do to get treasure? Students express their understanding through a narrative response that finishes the story from the point of view of a character. At the end of the unit, students write a narrative in response to the culminating task.

**Social Studies:** In social studies, our students are learning about the Louisiana Purchase, settlements in the west and the American Indian experience.