

Dear Parents and Students,

As the school year approaches, we are very excited about meeting you all. Mrs. Erickson spent the summer tending her garden, watching her son play soccer, and getting her other son ready to go off to the University of North Carolina. Mrs. Holmes enjoyed time at the beach, being part of her stepson's wedding, and "zhuzhing up" her backyard. We hope you all enjoyed your summer vacation as much as we did!

Now is the time to begin preparing for another exciting school year! Once again, we will be implementing the Columbia Reading and Writing Program. You will soon have an opportunity to live like a real writer and experience what it is like to get lost in a book. How will this happen? You will learn that writing involves more than just taking notes and preparing rough drafts. You will also learn that good readers and writers make a habit of noticing, remembering, questioning and wondering about the world around them.

Have you ever wondered why penguins have waterproof feathers or why giraffes have black tongues? This year, you're going to solve nature's biggest mystery—how animals get their special traits and why some traits help them survive! We will also be teaching you physics. Did you know that every object is pulled to the Earth using an invisible force? You'll be exploring the power of magnetic forces, and you'll think it's magic, but it's science!

Social Studies will take you around the world. We will be studying different countries. You will learn about their customs, geography, history, government, and economy. We will take a journey to the coldest place on Earth. Then, we will visit a country with amazing animals!

As the wonderful Dr. Seuss wrote:



Let us celebrate life together as a new school year begins. Third grade is filled with new challenges and goals to achieve. Be prepared to learn many fun and fascinating things about the world in which we live.

On the first day, please bring in your supplies (labeled with your first and last name), a healthy snack, and your favorite book.

**"On September 2nd, you will join our parade.
Follow the rainbow to your new room #403, in 3rd Grade!"**

We are looking forward to watching you grow and succeed throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Holmes
"The Erickdoltos"