

# Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Third Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Science.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

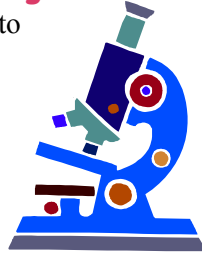
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,  
The Third Grade Teachers

## In every grade, we teach Science skills that will help students:

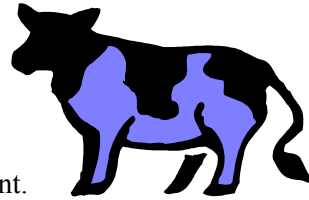
### Learn by investigating

- Use scientific methods to ask questions, conduct investigations using technology, and gather, analyze, and communicate information.



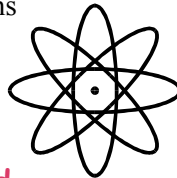
### Understand living things

- Understand the structure and function of living things, their systems and how living things interact with the environment.



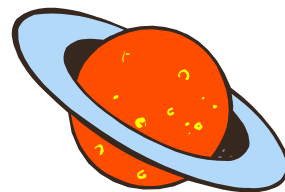
### Understand natural forces

- Understand the interactions between matter, energy, forces, and motion.



### Understand earth and space

- Understand the cycles and systems of the Earth, solar system and universe.



## In Third Grade, we teach Science skills that will help your child:

### Learn by investigating

- Ask questions.
- Use scientific tools, e.g. scales, hand lenses, rulers, graphs.
- Gather information by using resources, e.g. books, videos, internet, people.
- Record observations in a variety of ways.
- Develop strategies for solving problems.
- Use evidence collected to make decisions about how to proceed with a scientific investigation.
- Use a variety of ways to show understanding of a scientific concept, e.g. writing, drawing, creative expression.

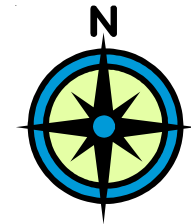


### Understand living things

- Compare and contrast the life cycles of plants and animals.
- Give evidence that characteristics are passed from parents to young.
- Describe the positive and negative effects of humans on the environment.

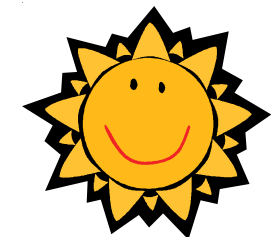
### Understand natural forces

- Explain how forces are needed to make objects move by pushing or pulling.
- Describe how objects move in terms of speed and direction; for example north, right, fast and slow.
- Explain how objects can change direction and speed.
- Identify simple machines, e.g. wheel and axle, lever, inclined plane, pulley, gear, wedge.



### Understand earth and space

- Identify different features of the surface of the earth, e.g. mountains, plains, oceans, lakes, islands.
- Describe the uses of resources that people take from the earth and demonstrate ways to reuse and recycle these resources.
- Compare and contrast the characteristics of the sun, moon and earth.
- Describe the motions of the sun, moon and the earth by themselves and as a system.



Whitmore Lake Elementary School  
1077 Barker Rd.  
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



### Learn by investigating

- Provide opportunities for research by taking children to the library.
- Learn the scientific method and try to use it in simple problems encountered at home.
- Conduct a simple experiment several times to see if you get the same results each time.

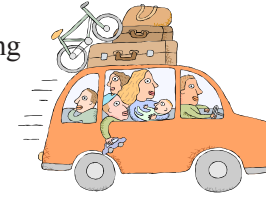
### Understand living things

- Set up a butterfly pavilion or an aquarium.
- Create a family tree and identify common physical characteristics of family members.
- Ask grandparents or senior citizens about changes to the environment during their lives.



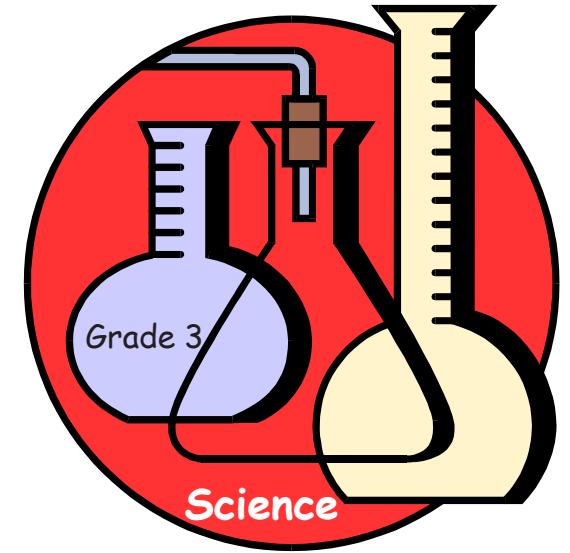
### Understand natural forces

- Describe the speed and direction you are traveling when taking family trips in a car or on a bicycle.
- List and identify simple machines found in your home.



### Understand earth and space

- Identify and discuss how unique landforms in your area were formed.
- List items from home that came from the earth. For example, the mineral talc is in talcum powder, toothpaste has fluoride which comes from the mineral fluorite, and table salt comes from the mineral salt.
- Observe the sky together and identify different phases of the moon.



Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Third Grade,  
we're teaching  
your child  
important  
discovery skills.

*What are these skills?*

*How can you help your child practice them?*

**WV** ...exceptional,  
personalized education

**For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:**  
Whitmore Lake Elementary School  
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake  
Michigan • 48189  
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>