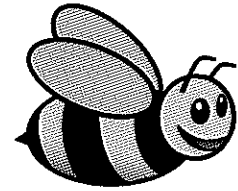


Ms. Perdisatt's  
January 27, 2016  
Classroom News



No Spelling This Week

You may use [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com) at home to practice the spelling words

Upcoming Tests:

- ❖ Math Test: Wednesday 2/1
- ❖ Reading Test- Portfolio : Friday 2/3
- ❖ No Spelling Test this week!

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Desert Sale: at lunch every Wednesday
- ❖ Portfolio Test Module D: Friday 2/3

THIRD GRADE FSA DATES:

- ❖ Reading FSA - 3/28 and 3/29
- ❖ Math FSA – 4/12 and 4/13

Helpful Websites for Third Graders:

- ✓ [www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com)
- ✓ [www.pearsonrealize.com](http://www.pearsonrealize.com)
- ✓ Download the app - I- Station!
- ✓ [www.frontrow.com](http://www.frontrow.com)
- ✓ [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)
- ✓ [www.tenmarks.com](http://www.tenmarks.com)
- ✓ [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)
- ✓ [www.Xtramath.com](http://www.Xtramath.com)
- ✓ [www.prodigymath.com](http://www.prodigymath.com)
- ✓ [www.floridastudents.org/](http://www.floridastudents.org/)



Our Focus this Week:

**January - Self Motivation**

Reading: Author's Purpose

Writing: Opinion Writing

Math: Topic 6 - Connect Area to Multiplication and Addition

Science: Chapter 3 - Living Things and Ecosystems

Social Studies: Northeast Region

Homework for This Week:

Reading Homework: Mr. Poppers Penguins

Monday due 1/31: Dictionary Detective and Vocabulary Study Ch.19-20

Tuesday due 2/1: Understanding the story and Chapter Summary Ch. 19-20

Wednesday due 2/2: Is recess an important part of the school day?

Thursday due 2/3: Why we need recess

Math Homework:

Monday due 1/31: Math Review for test- Topic 6

Tuesday due 2/1: Math Review for test- Topic 6

Wednesday due 2/2: Multiplication Review

Thursday due 2/3: Multiplication and Division Review

\*\*\*Although it is not part of the homework this week it is always excellent practice to read! ☺ \*\*\*

Contact Information:

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Website: <http://perdisattk.weebly.com>

Signup genius and access to homework assignments are available on my website!

I have read this newsletter with my child. We have completed the homework, reviewed the spelling words, and studied for any tests. Please sign & return this with your child's completed homework on: Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage.

## Is Recess an Important Part of the School Day?

For some students, recess is the best part of their school day. For other students, recess is a waste of time. Teachers, like students, also have different opinions about recess. I think that there are good reasons both for and against recess.

After a morning of hard work, students can't wait to take a break. Recess lets them relax. They are free to choose what to do. Some students choose to run or play games. Others just sit and talk with their friends. These students enjoy recess. It is an important part of the school day.

On the other hand, some students dislike recess. One reason is that they may not get along well with others. Recess usually takes place outdoors. Students are allowed to run around. They are not as well behaved as in a classroom. This free time makes problems more likely. When it is cold outside, students have another reason for disliking recess. It takes too much time to get in and out of warm clothes. During a thirty-minute recess, students may take fifteen minutes just getting dressed and undressed!

Like students, some teachers think recess is very important. Their reasons may differ from those of their students. For instance, students sit for a long time in the morning. This builds up extra energy. Teachers believe the students need a break. Without a break, they say, students get restless. They cannot focus. Their learning decreases. Teachers have seen that recess can help students get back to learning.

However, some teachers want to do away with recess. They want to use that time for helping students learn more in the classroom. Other teachers are afraid that students will get hurt when they play outdoors.

Deciding if recess is important is not easy. I think the reasons in favor of recess and against recess all make sense. In other words, students and teachers have good reasons for both opinions.

**Answer the following questions.**

**1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which sentence **best** tells the author's opinion about recess?

- A. All schools should have recess.
- B. There are good reasons for and against recess.
- C. Outdoor recess gives too much freedom to children.
- D. Some teachers do not think students should have recess.

**Part B**

Which details from the passage support your answer to Part A? Write the sentences on the lines below.

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**Hint** For Part A, look in the introduction for the author's opinion. For Part B, reread the conclusion of the passage to see how the author sums up his or her opinion.

2 Circle **three** examples of linking words in the passage.

**Tip** Remember, authors use linking words to connect opinions and reasons.

3 According to the passage, which sentences give reasons that students are in favor of recess? Circle **all** that apply.

- A. After a morning of hard work, students can't wait to take a break.
- B. Recess is very important to some students.
- C. Recess lets students relax.
- D. Without a break, students get restless.
- E. Students are free to choose what to do.
- F. Recess helps students get back to learning.

**Tip** The question asks why students like recess. Focus on the part of the passage that gives the students' reasons.

4 The author wants to add the following sentence to the passage.

**You should think about the different reasons before forming your own opinion.**

Where in the passage is the **best** place to add this sentence?

- A. at the end of paragraph 2
- B. at the end of paragraph 3
- C. at the end of paragraph 5
- D. at the end of paragraph 6

**Tip** Notice that the sentence refers to the many reasons that have been presented. Would it fit better at the beginning or end of the passage?

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Use the Reading Guide to help you understand the passage.

Thurs.  
(due  
Fri.)

## Why We Need Recess

### Reading Guide

How can you tell what the author thinks?

Notice how each paragraph focuses on a different reason to support the author's opinion.

How does the author back up the reasons for his or her opinion?

Most schools give students a break during the school day. This break, called recess, gives students time to play, have fun, or just relax. Not everyone believes recess is an important part of the school day. I do. I think recess can help both students and teachers in many ways.

Recess helps children learn skills they need in life. For instance, students learn how to cooperate, share, and take turns as they play. The Council on Physical Education for Children found that recess gives children the chance to practice problem-solving in real situations. Think of how important this skill is. Students have to solve problems every day when doing schoolwork.

Another benefit of recess is that it lowers stress. In the classroom, students are under pressure to perform well. They need to learn a great deal of information. They are then tested on what they have learned. This can cause them to feel stressed. However, when children take part in active play, their stress levels are reduced. Therefore, the physical activity they do at recess helps their minds as well.

A third reason students need recess is to keep their bodies fit. It makes sense that the more active someone is, the more fit he or she becomes. Without recess, students would spend hours sitting in one place. Some say that students get to exercise in gym class. However, gym class is not enough. Students need time to play on their own. They need some free time to burn off energy. Doctors and other experts have said that students need both gym class and recess for good health.

Thurs

## Reading Guide

Look at the linking words at the beginning of the first three paragraphs on this page. How do linking words help make the information easier to understand?

Why does the author give a reason not to have recess? How does the author answer this reason?

What is the purpose of the last paragraph?

In addition to helping students' bodies and minds, recess can help improve test scores! Giving children time to talk and play with one another freely helps improve vocabulary. It has been shown that more free time in the school day can help children do better on tests. Both teachers and students would be happy to see higher test scores.

On the other hand, some teachers believe that recess takes too much time away from teaching. There are so many subjects to teach in one day. Time is already too short for teachers to get to everything they want to teach. Recess just makes it harder to complete the lessons of the day.

However, what good is having more time to teach if children are not learning? Recess can actually help children learn. Children need a break after working for a long time. When they take the break and then come back, the work seems new. Students are better able to focus after recess.

I don't believe recess is wasted time. I do not believe it takes away time from learning. If anything, I think the opposite is true. As I have shown, recess helps students and teachers alike. It is just one tool we can use to help students improve their bodies and their minds.

**Answer the following questions.**

Thurs  
HW

**1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which sentence **best** describes the author's opinion?

- A. Recess can help improve teaching and learning.
- B. Recess causes problems by taking time away from learning.
- C. If students have gym class, they do not need recess.
- D. When students return from recess, they will always do well on a test.

**Part B**

Find a sentence in the passage that **best** supports your answer to Part A. Write your answer on the lines provided.

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- 3 Read the following opinion some teachers have about recess. (Thurs.)

**On the other hand, some teachers believe that recess takes too much time away from teaching.**

Which reason from the text argues against this opinion?

- A. There are so many subjects to teach in one day.
  - B. Students are better able to focus after recess.
  - C. Time is already too short for teachers to get to everything they want to teach.
  - D. Recess just makes it harder to complete the lessons of the day.
- 4 Reread the following paragraph from the passage and answer the question below.

**However, what good is having more time to teach if children are not learning? Recess can actually help children learn. Children need a break after working for a long time. When they take the break and then come back, the work seems new. Students are better able to focus after recess.**

Which sentence is the **best** one to add to the end of this paragraph?

- A. However, students will not have enough time.
  - B. For example, students may need more time to relax.
  - C. Therefore, students will learn more.
  - D. On the other hand, students may be tired.
- 5 Choose **two** sentences in which the subject and verb agree.
- A. Most schools gives students a break during the school day.
  - B. They need to learn a great deal of information.
  - C. A student have to solve problems every day when doing schoolwork.
  - D. Recess just makes it harder to complete the lessons of the day.



- 6 The passage "Why We Need Recess" presents a student's opinion in favor of recess. Evaluate the passage. <sup>Fill in the graphic organizer</sup> ~~Write two to three paragraphs~~ that tell whether you think the author included good reasons to back up his or her opinion. Discuss each reason and tell why you think it was or was not effective. Tell about anything the author could have added or done better. Be sure to include text evidence from the passage in your response.

You may plan your opinion piece in the space below. Write your opinion piece on the following pages.

Plan
<u>Your opinion:</u>
<u>Reason # 1:</u>
<u>Reason # 2:</u>
<u>Reason # 3:</u>
<u>Conclusion:</u>