

**Hello 3C Families! There is lots to report during this “in like a lion, out like a lamb” month of March!**

## **Literacy:**

- We recently learned about the traits of non-fiction literature and are putting our skills to use in our study of Russia.
- We just finished reading *Poppy's Return* by Avi for our read aloud. Next up: *Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White.
- We are doing an author study of Patricia Polacco. Our main goals are to make biographical connections, look for patterns in her style of writing and illustrating and identify the theme and message of each book. We will be making our own pysanky (Ukrainian Easter) eggs next week just as Babushka does in *Rechenka's Eggs*.
- We have compared a play and a Readers Theatre script and students are working in small groups to rehearse a Readers Theatre version of Kevin Henkes's *Sheila Rae the Brave*. The goal is not only to perform the script, but also write a Readers Theatre adaptation of a Patricia Polacco book.

## **Math:**

- We recently wrapped up the *Landmarks in the Hundreds* unit. We found the most efficient strategies to deal with larger numbers. We identified the factors that make up 100 and examined multiples of numbers up to 1000. This unit emphasized estimation and grouping of numbers in the 100s.
- We are currently working through a unit called *From Paces to Feet*. The topics in this unit include: measurement (metric and US), estimation, use of “body benchmarks” (such as hand, fingers, feet and paces) and standard measuring tools. This unit also covers data management, asking students to both create and answer questions about how data is presented in a variety of formats such as tables and line plots.

## **Social Studies:**

- We are studying Russia, focusing on the culture and people (customs, food, language), history (the history of the Czars, the rise and fall of the USSR, and formation of modern Russia) and geography (rivers, lakes, borders, and land forms). The connection to our study of Patricia Polacco supports the social studies content of this unit.

## **Language Arts MCAS 2008 Dates:**

- Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>