

The Daily Apple

Vol. 27 Issue 1
Summer of 2023

From my desk to yours:

As summer gets underway, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself and welcome you all to Titusville Intermediate School. If you are reading this newsletter your child will soon be one of my newest 3rd grade Super Sidekicks.

My name is Mr. Christopher Shave and in case you haven't heard I've always loved comics, cartoons and superheroes, which is part of the reason I think of my students as my sidekicks.

I've taught at Titusville since 1998 and I think it is a terrific place to teach and learn and I hope you do too.



BE A HERO READ!

An Apple a Week?

Many years ago when I began teaching my principal asked me how I would facilitate communication between school and home. The answer to that query is in your hands right now. The Daily Apple is a weekly classroom newsletter I publish every Friday throughout the school year. It is my way of staying in touch with you and your families. I often write about the topics we are studying, the events happening in our school and special projects you are completing. I also include reminders of upcoming events such as field trips and school vacations.

School Supplies

You'll Need in 3rd Grade

The following is a list of items that you will need this year. These are just suggestions, but I ask that you contact me if you have any questions or problems.

- ◆ 2 marbled composition books (black, cardboard cover)
- ◆ pink erasers
- ◆ package of multi-colored highlighters
- ◆ small handheld pencil sharpener (with cover to collect shavings)
- ◆ black dry erase markers (2 or more)
- ◆ Two-Pocket Storage Folders: You'll need 6. You'll use these to keep your papers neat. The basic color kind at 18 cents are perfect.
- ◆ Colored pencils or crayons:
NO MARKERS PLEASE
- ◆ One pair of headphones/earbuds
- ◆ One standard size human brain
- ◆ One pair of metal scissors
- ◆ A pack of glue sticks
- ◆ 5 packs of Post-it notes
- ◆ sharpened pencils (Ticonderoga, if possible)
- ◆ small pencil box OR pouch
- ◆ OPTIONAL: tissues, paper towels, antibacterial wipes

Classroom donations for other shared items are always appreciated, but not necessary. Special projects may require other types of supplies. I included one item as a joke. Did you find it? See you on the first day of school in Room 211.

From My Desk continued...

This newsletter is a tradition for me, but I also use a wide variety of media to stay in touch from email to Google Classroom, which will more than likely be how some of your child's assignments will be completed. I am also on Twitter @Mr_Shave_TIS so please follow me.

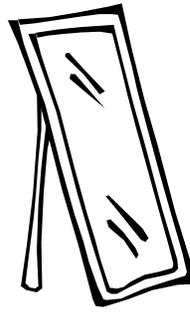
I'm sure that you'll come to find this little newsletter essential reading each week. You may even want to plan on keeping each issue during the year. If you do, you'll have a great memory book of your adventures in third grade.

Enjoy your summer. Have lots of fun and I'll see you in September!

Sincerely,
Mr. Christopher Shave

E-mail: *Checked regularly for the summer*

cshave@acsdny.org



Who is Mr. Shave?

I'd like to think this is a complex question, but here are simple phrases I might use to answer the question.

- ❖ Married for many years to Meegan Veeder-Shave, a sewing teacher in the Wappingers School District
- ❖ Papa of two bright and beautiful daughters: Cosette (23 yr.) and Mace (21 yr.)
- ❖ Arlington teacher since 1996- 3rd grade
- ❖ Writer of poetry, short story fiction and journalistic non-fiction.
- ❖ Photographer: Publicity photos, portraits, also I have taught B&W photography.
- ❖ Reader of various kinds of books, particularly interested in mystery, fantasy and comic book superheroes
- ❖ Theater buff: acted, sung and managed local shows, most recently I helped haunt the streets of Huguenot Street as the Man in Black for their Halloween tours.
- ❖ Gentleman Farmer: restoring 200+ year-old Quaker farmhouse I am spending the summer repainting. We raise among our various animals. We have cats, dogs, lots of chickens and a large flock of sheep. The sheep are used for their wool and most of them were born on our farm. We will be on livestock hill during the Dutchess County Fair. Come say hello!

Home Study Check System and Routines

I use a simple system for marking the students' daily homework or study assignments. The paper is checked for accuracy, effort and neatness. Then it is given one of three marks:

✓ -

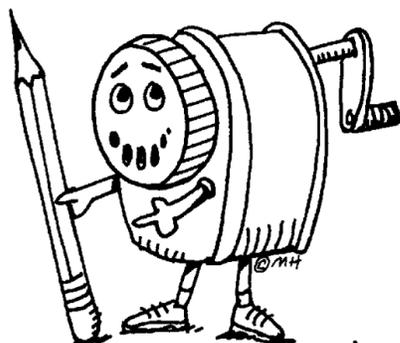
✓

✓ +

The check minus implies that I feel the student made a poor attempt or just had no understanding of the topic or reading. I will try to speak with a student whenever they score this mark.

A check recognizes a decent effort and average accuracy. Finally, the check + says the student completed the homework in top fashion.

The only exception is the "Write It!" writing assignments that will be graded on a 4 point scale.



Sharpen Your Skills

Although we will guide the children, I would like to see the responsibility for homework rest squarely on each student's shoulders. They are required to check that they have the homework at the end of the day. They are responsible for handing it in each morning. I hope the parents will support this move to encourage more independence by making it the child's job to accomplish the homework each day.

Helpful Ideas for Successful Studying

- Set a daily schedule (1 hour) of when the student will complete the work.
- Find a place away from distractions where the child can work. Please note that the location need not be absolutely quiet as long as the atmosphere is one of work.
- Eliminate the television! Television is a hot medium, which means it demands our attention. However, you may find that your child responds well to having some music on while they work. The radio is a cool medium. It is less likely to distract.



- Musical notes may in fact help our brains work. Studies show that some music, particularly classical, bring order to our thinking. I find music to be my creative partner. I would, however, shy away the current vocal pop during homework sessions.
- Avoid the battles! Please don't feel that you have to have a drag out fight each night over homework. It is simply their responsibility. If the children give you a difficult time, write me a note and I will make this clear.

Summer Assignments:

Keep Your Brain in Shape



Did you know that some of the best exercise you can give your brain happens outside of school? Probably not, most kids think that learning is only something that happens at school.

In fact, **you are a walking, talking learning machine.** You learn from every experience you have from walking by the river looking at the boats to studying ancient Egypt at a museum. You can learn how to build a birdhouse with your Grandfather or how to identify songbirds with your older sister. Learning happens in many ways. You might even learn a thing or two from the television if you pick the right show.

So since you're doing all that learning anyway, here's just a few assignments I want you to complete this summer.

Reading

Read 20 minutes or more each day. This time can be spent reading alone, with an older sibling or adult. You can read aloud or silently or just listen to someone read aloud for you. Choose great stories! Comic books are cool and re-reading your favorite book counts. Check out the library for more reading material such as kids magazines. Got the internet? Have an adult help you find kid friendly sites with interesting things to read. Just READ!

Writing

Write a letter to your aunt explaining something fun you've done this summer. Use complete sentences and lots of details. Keep a diary or journal and spend 10 minutes writing anything you want in it. Pick your favorite character from a book you've read and write a new adventure from them. Or maybe you'd like to learn all about a topic and then create a non-fiction book about it with magazine pictures or illustrations.

Write lists, such as 10 silly ways to make a mud pie. Write just names of things (nouns) or actions words (verbs). Write poems or songs that play with words. Write notes to friends and encourage them to write back. Just WRITE!

Mathematics

One of the areas of math that you could spend some time on is memorization of addition and subtraction facts. These are essential when math gets more complex, but you can practice them in exciting ways. Create a game for yourself with facts. Have parents quiz you during summer car rides or play a round of license plate math where you add or subtract numbers on the plates of passing cars. Spend some time on the math computer program you got for your birthday or try to create little rhymes and songs that help you recall the basic facts of addition and subtraction.

Only 10 minutes here or there will fix these important facts in your brain the same way you hold spellings and other important information. Hint: if you think you're ready for multiplication and division facts, go for it.

There are lots of other kinds of math you could do such as measuring items with a ruler or ingredients for a cake with a measuring cup. Or how about identifying shapes in your world, looking for patterns or playing with pattern blocks. The next time you go to a store, ask your mom to let you pay the cashier. Count out the amount of money you need to pay the bill and then check the change.

Finally, practice you ability to tell time. Can you tell time to the hour and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour? Create a game or whatever. Just make math fun.

Creative Play

Exercise your imagination! Play with friends and siblings. Create a Leggo world or build a pirate fort. Think of ways to use that huge box the dryer or refrigerator came in. Create a picture with finger paints

Pretend to be a dragon or a soft kitten. Put on a puppet show or have a tea party. Take walks, swim and participate in sports. Be active!