Third Grade: First Week Things to Go Over

Classroom tour and rules:
- **Raise your hand** and wait to be called on
- Stand up quietly behind your chair for **bathroom dismissal**
- **Water bottle** on floor (inside foot area)
- **Desk protection cloths** (where stored, how to use)
- **Nature table** guidelines (picking things up, bringing items)
- **Cubbies**, not assigned (where will extra boxes go?)
- **Chores**
  - In your desk (crayons, pencils, slates, handwork bags on hooks)
  - **My desk is mine**, your desk is yours (must have permission to go into another’s desk)
- **Kleenex** (where located, just get some if needed)
- **Drinking water**, only between classes- can bring a bottle and fill it
- **Cabinets, refrigerator, stove**- ask for permission
- **Nicknames**- must have student’s permission to use a nickname (other than Nick or Dan… names the students use a lot)
- **Recess openness**- Have any of you ever gone up to a group of children and asked to join them and were told, ”No?” How did that make you feel? In our third grade that will not happen because the answer will always be “yes.” If someone forgets how to let others play, they will sit beside me at recess and watch how others do it. If you want to spend time with one or two special friends- where could you do that? After school, on weekends. School is a place for community.
- **Student questions ??**

Math Skills

1. **Difference in skills** at this age- everyone has things they have learned and things they will be learning. Drawing may be difficult for one student, but math is easy, whereas another student may find drawing easy but math difficult. When it comes to the things you know well, you will have to be patient while others keep up… just as they will be for you when it comes time to doing those things you find challenging.

2. Introduce **two math games (odd/even dice and +, x, - gold mine)**- divide up into math groups and play games for 15-20 minutes.
3. The 12 times table- why is it important to know? What kinds of things are measured by 12’s...what is another name for a group of 12 (dozen) (eggs, hours on a clock, inches in a foot, months in the year, etc.) Let’s learn those this next week...already you know 12x0 and 12x1...any others? What about 12x2 or 12x10? Fill in these numbers on the multiplication chart on blackboard. Can they figure out any others?

Painting/drawing - Read St. George and the Dragon story- connect to Michaelmas for new students...describe play, festival, etc. Guide class in a drawing from the story.

Chores- go over 3 chores- (cleaning desks, dusting nature table, cleaning chalkboard) how are they to be done/supplies, etc. Then have students do the “best they can” until their chore comes up for demonstration.

Language Skills:

a. Discuss difference between vocabulary words and spelling words- point out vocabulary words on board, discuss meaning of those heard today
b. Discuss sight words- what are they, why important to “know them by sight”
b. Show spelling card kit, how they will use it
c. Give out paper for spelling test, number 1-25, give test
d. Begin working with Seeing Stars

Introduce the Farmer’s Almanac (original use, how it evolved- read excerpts from Poor Richard’s)

Discuss our almanac... what kinds of things could we put in it? (weather, samples of things we grow, illustrations, reports on what we did in the garden)

What could we write about today? What did we do in the garden

Hand out Almanac books- write Name, Third Grade, September 2002, Mrs. Langley

Show cover picture of “Farmer’s Almanac” written in vegetable motif. Begin drawing cover if enough time

Review rest of day-expectations for behavior with other teachers
Eurythmy- Ask students to tell new students about it.

Field Trip
1. Discussion about field trip behavior
2. Car assignments for roll call
3. Leave for Berry picking at Summerfield Farm
4. Return/Freeze berries/snack/play
5. Write Farmer’s Almanac entry- begin together on board
   “This week the weather was hot and sunny. Yesterday we worked very hard in the school garden. We harvested wheat and...... Today we went to a berry farm and picked ____ pounds of _______ berries. We put them in the freezer. Next week we will use them to make __________ berry jam.”
6. Finish drawing cover for Almanac, contact it on when done.

Optional assignment:
What did you do over the summer? Write up some key words on the board (who can spell: vacation, summer, family, beach, mountains, grandparents, etc.) Choose one event and write a short story about it, if you have time illustrate your story.