

Biography Writing Project – Your Help Needed!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello! In writing, we are learning how to write different types and genres of pieces. So far in third grade, we have written both personal narratives and realistic fiction pieces.

We are now moving onto our Informational Writing unit. Each student is going to write a biography as we learn how to write informational pieces. Students are going to need two sources for this project.

- 1) a biography from the Internet, which will be found at school
- 2) **a picture book biography, which students will need to bring to school from home**

Students can choose anyone from history to write about. If possible, we would love for your child to go to a public library and choose a book to bring into school. If you'd like to purchase a book, that would be ok too, but we want to make sure it's an appropriate reading level. **Mostly, we do not want children to select books that are too hard.** We have talked about the Five Finger test, which is when students open up to a page in the middle of the book and start reading, putting up a finger each time there is a word they don't know. If they get to 5 or more fingers, it's too hard. **For this project, we would like every child to choose a PICTURE book, rather than a CHAPTER book, since we need to read it quickly in class to find information for our writing pieces.** Even if your child typically reads chapter books, we are asking all students to select a picture book to use for their research for this project.

Some good picture book biography series are:

- A Picture Book Of... (by David Adler)
- Time for Kids

** There is a series of books that only focuses on the **childhoods** of famous people. Please do not choose one of those because we want to learn about the person's **whole life**. Students will be writing about the person's early years, their adult life, and their accomplishments/why they're famous.*

There is also an excellent series "Who Was..?" but these are chapter books and will be **too long to read in class and take notes from in just one or two periods.*

In libraries, biographies are organized by the person's last name, rather than the author's last name, so a good option might be to go to the library and look through the books to find one that is interesting and appropriate. We also do have a school library that has biographies, so students can also look there if the public library is not an option. However, we would like to encourage you to take your child to a public library if possible, so that they can get the experience of looking for a book when there's someone there to help them. At the school library, there will not necessarily be an adult available to help guide each child in selecting a book.

Information on the New Castle County Libraries: <http://www2.nccde.org/libraries/default.aspx>

Please have your child bring a biography book to school by Wednesday, Feb 24.

Please be aware that if your child's teacher thinks the book is too difficult for your child to read and understand, she may ask your child to choose another book.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please ask your child's teacher. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, The Third Grade Team