

AUGUST 23, 2013

# Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! I cannot believe how quickly the first week and half has gone. I am so excited to be working with your children and I know we'll have a great year! Included in this (bi-weekly) newsletter you will find information about what we've been doing in class, reminders, and upcoming events. I also wanted to make you aware of my class website which can be found by accessing the staff webpage off of the school website. The direct link to the website is: <http://misspsrouse.weebly.com>. On the website you will find pictures of our class, helpful educational links and updates/reminders as the year progresses, and our class blog. I look forward to seeing all of you at Parent Night next Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>! As always, any questions or concerns feel free to email me at [Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org](mailto:Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org)

## Highlights from the past two weeks:

- Making New Friends: Students participated in community-building activities where they interacted with their new classmates and learned about each other's interests.
- Brown Bag Activity: The students LOVED this activity, so thank you for helping them with it! I also enjoyed learning so much about each student!
- Second Step Lesson: This is a program that teaches skills to promote social and academic success! We had our first lesson this week and the theme of the week was "Respect". We will be having a new lesson each Monday.
- We've been "Spotted" two times for great hallway behavior!
- Yoga: We've been learning and applying some yoga techniques as a brain break and a strategy to refocus attention. Ask your child to show you their favorite technique ☺

Please remember to send a healthy snack daily with your child! Also, please send a spoon if they have apple sauce, fruit cups, or yogurt! Snack time is a wonderful chance to refuel the brain.

## Save the Date!

### Parent Night

8/29

Please come to school at 7 pm to learn more about our class and my rules and expectations!

### K-5 Early Release

9/30

On Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, school will end at 12:30. District-wide for grades k-5. Staff members have afternoon meetings.

### No School

9/2

Happy Labor Day! There will be no school on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Here is what we have been learning...

**Reading:** Students have listened to many read alouds centered on the theme of friendship. We have been working on fix-up strategies they can use when they are reading independently and they come across words that are unknown. We also reviewed the three ways to read a book (read the words, read the pictures, retell the story). Students have been working on building reading stamina for read to self. They are able to choose five "just right books" from my classroom library at the beginning of each week! Ask your child what books they have enjoyed reading so far! Over the next several weeks we will be focusing on questioning reading strategies the students can use to help aid in their comprehension. This week, our vocabulary word was **fact** and next week it will be **solve**. Mrs. King came in this week to review letter formation and will do so again next week. She will be coming in each Monday afternoon to do a lesson. Soon we will begin working with short vowels.

**Writing:** So far we have established our writing routine and discussed where writers get their ideas. Next week we will start the "Being a Writer" program and students will be focusing on getting their ideas from drawing and sketching. I encourage them to write for fun at home and to keep writing notebooks or journals at home for when they want to write down their ideas and thoughts. They are welcome to bring in writing pieces and share with the class on Thursdays during our "Open Mic" time. I am continuing to stress the importance of proper handwriting and neatness, and please remind them about this when they are doing homework at home!

**Math:** We have been working on addition and subtraction strategies to help us with our math facts. This week we learned about: counting on, counting back, ways to make ten, and making 10 from 9. Please be practicing daily with your child on the addition and subtraction math facts to ensure they are improving from week to week. Their knowledge of these facts will aide in their understanding of other math curriculum this year! I will go over this more in detail on Parent Night. Next week we will continue to practice the fact strategies and we will also learning what it means to "compose" and "decompose" numbers. We will also be learning about fact families!

**Social Studies:** The past week and half has been all about building classroom community! We also spent time learning about the important of being a "buddy" and not a bully". In the weeks to follow we will be learning about neighborhoods, communities, and different groups. We will be exploring the differences between rural, urban, and suburban.