

S E P T E M B E R 6 , 2 0 1 3

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for coming to Parent Night! It was great to see all of you again, and I hope you found my presentation informative! If you haven't returned the yellow LITH contact form or the white form from the parent handbook, please do so a.s.a.p! Thank you so much to all those who have donated extra snacks and other items on our class wish list! If you would still like to help out, please let me know! I wanted to let you know I have posted on my website the list for "Student of the Week" as this starts next week. The list is also attached to the back of this letter. Just as a reminder, the daily activities for this are in my classroom packet as well as posted on my website! The Pizza Hut Book-It program will be starting this month so please remember to leave all reading log sheets in their blue folders until the end of the month!

As always, any questions or concerns feel free to email me at Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- We visited the "Learning Lab" this week for writing where students were able to sketch what they saw in nature and use their sketch as a way to generate ideas for writing!
- Amelia was the first student to meet the "Class Dojo" expectation of 20 points! We have started our points over and are working on a new goal! Ask your child how many they have!
- Kyra, Jeremy, Tyler B., and Madison R had their birthday lunch with me! I love having these lunches with the students!
- Show and Tell for the tools parents use at their jobs! This was a HUGE success so thank you for spending the time explaining your job to your child and letting them bring in a tool.
- Students took the district benchmark tests for reading & math.
- We finished our 1st art project (Water color name art)!

Second Step Lesson of the Week: Using Self-Talk. Students use this strategy of talking softly to themselves or in their head to keep themselves focused on the task at hand and to avoid distractions.

Save the Date!

Midterms Go Home
9/13

Your child's district benchmark scores for reading and math will come home next Friday.

Apple Party
9/26

We will be having our "Apple Party" in honor of Johnny Appleseed's birthday! More information will be coming for this!

Book Fair
9/27

Please come pick out books Friday evening for your child! What better way to encourage reading than to give them the gift of a book!

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: We have continued working on fix-up reading strategies for when they come to unknown words. This week we began a comprehension strategy called "Questioning". Students learned that good readers ask questions before, during, and after they read to check for understanding. We practiced this strategy during our whole group lessons each day this week and they also did so during their daily 5 centers. At home, be sure to have your child ask those "who, what, where, when, why, how, etc" questions before, during, and after they read. By now, we have reviewed and gone over the expectations for all the daily 5 centers. Next week, we will be practicing the full rotation of what they are doing as I am preparing to begin guided reading groups. In phonics we began working with "short a" and Mrs. King came and did her lesson on Tuesday. Next week we will be working with "short e". This week, our vocabulary word was **opinion** and next week it will be **energetic**. Please be sure to be reviewing these words with your child!

Writing: We've started our first unit, which focuses on generating ideas from a sketch. Students had multiple opportunities to sketch and then write a story based on their sketch. We have also been focusing on using capital letters, writing neatly, and using ending marks! Please remind your child to write with proper conventions when doing his/her "Home Fun". Next week we will start getting ideas from real life events that have happened to us.

Math: We have continued to work on addition and subtraction fact strategies. We learned about "fact families/related facts", "doubles", and "doubles +1" facts. We have also continued to work with story problems and composing and decomposing numbers! As I explained during Parent Night, a huge component of Common Core math is to be able to explain and show your thinking and students are becoming more comfortable with this expectation the more we practice! We have finished our first unit and will be taking our first math assessment next Tuesday. We will review in class on Monday the concepts we have been working on for the past 4 weeks, but please review with your child as well. I am so happy to see how many students are working on xtramath.org at home! The daily practice with math facts is greatly helping your child with their math fact fluency! We will continue going to the computer lab weekly to practice.

Social Studies: We learned about Labor Day and why we had the day off. We read non-fiction stories that explained the history behind this holiday. We discussed the importance of different workers within our community and the tools they use. Students wrote about what job they want when they grow up. The next two weeks will focus on rural, urban, and suburban communities