

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

# Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

Fall is finally here and I'm thrilled because this is my favorite time of the year! I hope you had a chance to review your child's midterm and if you still have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me! I want to remind you that the reading fluency expectation for fall was 62 wpm (words per minute). By winter, your child should be able to read **88+ words in 1 minute!** Starting next week, we will be having "Fluency Fridays" where the students will be engaged in several different stations that allow them a chance to focus on the areas of fluency (speed, expression, phrasing, and punctuation) to ensure they are gaining speed as the year progresses. They will be charting their progress and there will be incentives based on overall growth! Please continue to practice the poems each weekend!

As you already know, our Apple Party is coming up next Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>! Thanks so much for all who volunteered to bring something! Next Friday we will be going to the Scholastic Book Fair at 9:10 to preview and purchase books so you may send money in an envelope with your child that day to purchase books! It will also re-open in the evening from 5-7:30 if you would like to come back and shop with your child! I plan on attending from 5-6:00 pm. Food and costumes will be on sale as well that evening!

Lastly, many new pictures have been posted to my class website so be sure to check them out! 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:

- Chase and Yadira were students of the week!
- We have new incentives for Class Dojo! Ask your child about the new point system and prizes involved ☺
- We visited the SPOT store on 9/20/13. Be sure to ask your child what they purchased with their SPOTS!
- Pictures were sent home! Every student's picture turned out GREAT!
- Mrs. Wolter was our first "Mystery Reader". If you'd like to sign up to be one please email me!
- Midterms went home for math and reading!
- Second Step Lessons: Expressing Feelings and Being Assertive

**Art Projects:** We do art on Fridays and the students are able to choose if they want to take their project home or keep it for the art fair in the spring! Some art is displayed in the classroom or on bulletin boards!

## Save the Date!

### Scholastic Book Fair 9/27

Feel free to send money in an envelope for your child to pick out some new books! Remember to come back between 5-7:30 for the hotdog dinner (\$4) and costumes!

### Early Release 10/3

There will be an early release at 12:30 on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> due to teachers working on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report cards.

### End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter/Columbus Day weekend 10/11 & 10/14

The end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is Friday October 11<sup>th</sup>.

There is no school October 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> due to Columbus Weekend!

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

**Reading:** We have been busy learning about the reading comprehension strategy known as "Questioning". Last week we read several stories about bicycles and this week we read the book "Frog and Toad Are Friends" which has 5 short stories within it! Students have been practicing asking questions before, during, and after they read to check for understanding and then going back to find the answers or infer an answer. We also learned the difference between "thin" and "thick" questions! Be sure to ask your child what the difference is! At home, be sure to have your child ask those "who, what, where, when, why, how, etc" questions! Next week we will begin focusing on non-fiction stories and learning how to navigate through these texts using text features such as: captions, bold print, indexes, glossaries, etc. In phonics we have been working with "short e and short o"! This week, our vocabulary word was **complete** and next week it will be **abundant**.

**Writing:** Last week we wrote stories based on the idea of "it happened to me". This week we wrote narrative stories about friends! Be sure to ask what friend your child wrote about! We are really working on building our writing stamina and producing high quality work that is neat and makes sense! We will continue to have "Open Mic" on Thursdays and students are encouraged to read any writing piece they've written (even writing done at home).

**Math:** We finished our 1<sup>st</sup> unit and took the district assessment! Those were sent home last Friday and hopefully you had a chance to review how your child did and what skills he or she may need more assistance with. Please continue to review any skills that were not mastered, as I will be re-assessing throughout the year! Our next unit we have started is related to place value and being able to count, read, and represent numbers up to 1,000. This week we have spent a lot of time working with standard form (325), expanded form (300+20+5=325), and word form (three hundred twenty five). We have played many math games related to these skills so be sure to ask your child what his or her favorite is! I do have extras to send home if you'd like to play as a family! Please work with your child on the three ways to represent numbers up to 1,000. Next week we will work with comparing numbers using greater than and less than symbols. Our next test will be in 2 weeks. Please continue daily practice with math facts!

**Social Studies:** We've been learning about the three types of communities: rural, urban, and suburban! We took a "virtual fieldtrip" to Mrs. Dean's (another 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher) rural farm she grew up on! Students worked in groups to create posters that represent the different communities! We will begin learning about maps next week and learning how to read a map key, learning the different continent names, and the cardinal directions.