

OCTOBER 4, 2013

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe, but we will be finishing the first quarter next Friday, October 11th. This first quarter has flown by and I love learning more and more about your children with each new day of school! Report cards will be sent home on October 23rd. Please keep in mind for this first quarter that many of the concepts being assessed have just been introduced and will be taught in greater detail throughout the year in order to meet the year-end standard. I want to offer a HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who contributed to our apple party! The students had a wonderful time sampling all the different apple foods and I sincerely appreciate all of the donations! I also wanted to thank all of you who came to our Book Fair last Friday and supported our school! It was so nice to see so many students from our class there!

Beginning this month, 2nd grade students will receive a high school reading buddy from Jacob's High School. The high school students will come a total of three times to Lake in the Hills to meet with the 2nd grade students. Each session is an hour and they do a get-to-know-you activity, read a book, and do a small craft! The high school students will come once in October, November, and December. Their first session is Oct. 17th! The 2nd grade students will be able to keep the book they selected at the end of the 3rd session. I know the students are already looking forward to this opportunity!

The Pizza Hut Book-It reading incentive started October 1st. Each month I will collect all the reading log papers from that month (please leave them in the blue reading log folder) and those students who read all four days each week for that month will earn a free Pizza Hut coupon. They have been doing a wonderful job with their reading logs so keep up the great work at home!

Lastly, I have uploaded new pictures to my class website (I usually do so weekly) so be sure to check them out as well as to check out the blog and reminder tab! As always, any questions or concerns feel free to email me at Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- Anthony and Madison R. were students of the week! The class and I love the "Wednesday" activity!
- A BIG thanks to Jason, Leilani, Mason, and Maddy for donating a book to our classroom library from the book fair!
- The Apple Party was a great success!
- I had lunch and an Ice Cream Party with Tyler P, Alan, and Sienna who signed up for me at the SPOT store.
- Mrs. Percle was a mystery reader! Please contact me if you'd like to do this in the future!
- The vocabulary word this week was "annoyed". Next week it will be "prepare". I have a fun craftivity we will do for "prepare".
- Pro Kids Assembly on 10/3
- Second Step Lessons: Identifying feelings and feeling confident

■ **Class Basket for Fall Fun Fair:** Just a reminder that our theme is "First Aid". I did send a note home earlier this week that gave great examples of what to purchase if you are interested in helping our class. Thanks so much to those who have already sent in items! Your child will earn 2 spots for helping with this project!

Save the Date!

No School

10/11 & 10/14

The end of the 1st quarter is Friday October 11th.

There is no school October 11th and 14th due to Columbus Weekend!

Heavenly Hats Parade and Fundraiser

10/18

Please support the Heavenly Hats fundraiser by donating \$1 or more to have your child wear a hat during the day. There will be an all school parade. The money goes towards cancer research!

Fall Fun Fair

10/25

There will be a Fall Fun Fair going on at the school from 5-8 pm! There will be food and games! More information will be coming!

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: We have been busy reading non-fiction stories and learning about the different text features found in these books. Some text features we have been focusing on that help us better understand non-fiction stories are: Table of Contents, Glossary, Bold Words, Headings, Captions, Diagrams, Maps, and Photographs and Illustrations. Be sure to ask your child what these are, how do they help, and where can they be found! Students have been building their reading skills with informational text both in whole group, small group, and independently. We have also begun learning about Authors Purpose. Students are learning how to decide if the author's purpose is to "persuade", "inform", or "entertain". A helpful acronym I taught them is to think of P.I.E. We will expand upon this skill next week and work on finding evidence within the text to support our decision of what the purpose is. We have finished reviewing short vowel sounds.

Writing: We have continued with our unit on narrative writing. Last week we wrote silly animal stories as part of our Being a Writer curriculum. We began by generating basic sentences and then formulating a story based on one sentence. This week we wrote scary stories! Students worked on adding descriptive words such as sound words. Next week, we will learn about the writing process of revising and publishing. We will also begin writing about a fictional monster! The students love our Halloween inspired writing topics! In an effort to improve the quality of writing, we have started "5 Star" assessments. These will be given weekly and will show whether students are writing with the 5 grade level conventions such as: capitals, punctuation, spacing, letter formation, and spelling. You should have seen the first one come home this week! Please work with your child on their handwriting at home!

Math: We finished our 2nd unit on Place Value and took the district assessment! I should hopefully have those returned early next week. Please review it with your child and take note of 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! As part of our review, we played some really fun math games such as: guess the mystery number off the 100 chart, human place value game, and silent pass the paper skip counting. Be sure to ask your child which was their favorite and maybe play it with them at home! Our next unit will be "Telling Time". Within this unit we will focus on telling time to the 5-minute and determining the difference between A.M. and P.M. I encourage you to practice with your child at home telling time both on an analogue clock as well as on a digital clock. Please continue daily practice with math facts!

Social Studies: We have continued learning about map skills. Next week we will learn about globes and briefly touch on the equator, oceans, and continents. We will apply all the skills by making pirate maps! We will then switch to Science and our unit on "Energy".