

OCTOBER 18, 2013

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

I hope you had an enjoyable 4-day weekend. We are officially in the 2nd quarter! In my opinion this quarter always goes the quickest with all the fun holiday events that occur during it! Report cards will be sent home next Wednesday, October 23rd. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. With the implementation of common core for both reading and math, higher standards have been set in order to “meet” grade level expectations across the state and district. Please keep in mind that the standards are end-of-the-year expectations and we will be expanding on concepts as the year continues. One recent change that has been approved district wide is the change from 2 to 4 minutes for the addition and subtraction timed tests. The goal is still to answer 50 problems for both addition and subtraction within 4 minutes in order to meet that standard and receive a “3” on a report card. Having a solid understanding of numbers and specifically math facts will greatly assist your child in all other areas of math this year. Please spend at least 5 minutes each night doing flash cards or some other form of practice. We continue to do our daily seven minute math fact fluency within the classroom and go to the lab on Thursdays to practice on xtramath.org.

A sign-up sheet will be sent home next week for our Halloween party. Also, the fundraiser “Heavenly Hats” is being rescheduled to a different time of the year. Due to wireless internet issues this week at school, I was unable to give Class Dojo points this week; however, all students were “earning” them in my eyes. Lastly, I have uploaded TONS of pictures from all of our recent fun events to my website. As always, any questions or concerns feel free to email me at Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- Kevin and Avi were students of the week!
- A BIG thanks to everyone who donated to our Fall Fun Fair basket!
- The 2nd grade team enjoyed having Nathan Longpre from the Chicago Wolves hockey team come and be a mystery reader! He read a hockey story, did a Q&A session, took pictures, and signed autographs! This was a wonderful event.
- Jacobs High School buddies came for their first session! Be sure to ask your child about their buddy.
- Mrs. King taught a wonderful phonics lesson on consonant blends! She used the analogy of blending two different consonant sounds together by using two different fruits and using a real blender to mix them together and produce a new final product. The students were able to try a sampling of the fruit smoothie and practiced writing words with consonant blends!
- Maddy R.’s grandmother was a mystery reader! She donated the book “The Day the Crayons Quit” to our classroom library. Please contact me if you’d like to do this in the future!
- We discussed Christopher Columbus and why we had Monday off. We critically analyzed two different points of view on the discovery of America!
- The vocabulary word this week was “sleek”. Next week it will be “narrow”.

School Wide PBIS 30 minute game time on Friday, October 18th

Please check the back of this newsletter for a fun optional opportunity.

Save the Date!

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! By now you should have received information about this.

Story Character Pumpkins Due

10/29

If your child is participating in the optional pumpkin contest, please send the pumpkin to school by October 29th. You may also drop it off at the office.

Classroom Halloween Party/ Costume Parade

10/31

This year all classroom parties will take place from 8:45-9:45. The costume parade will begin at 9:45. Please send costumes in a bag that day.

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: We have continued to read non-fiction books and make sense of the different text features. Students continue to consider what the author’s purpose is of each book they read and then support their thinking by using evidence based language and evidence from the text. With common core, a large emphasis is on explaining student thinking and defending their answer. Our new comprehension strategy is determining the main idea of a singular paragraph and also multi paragraphs. When finding the main idea, we consider what is the most important idea about what is being read. Often it is stated in a heading or first sentence. Ask your child about the brown paper bag activity we did this week to help us differentiate between the main idea and supporting details. We will work on this strategy for 2 more weeks and then begin dictionary skills. During the 2nd quarter, we will be focusing on long vowels, vowel teams, and blends.

Writing: We have spent the last 2 weeks writing Halloween fictional stories. We spent this week going through the writing process and focusing on the last 3 stages, which are: revising, editing, and publishing. Students chose one of their Halloween inspired stories, revised it, had a conference with me and/or a peer, and published it. These are hung on one of our classroom bulletin boards, which is titled “spooktacular writing”. I am noticing many students are not remembering to write with capital letters and ending marks. While handwriting has been improving, these two conventions remain a concern. Please reinforce these at home when your child is doing homework. During the 2nd quarter, there will be a heavy emphasis on editing and revising writing as well as focusing on a topic and providing many sentences about a topic.

Math: We have begun our unit on “time”. Students have learned how to tell time to the 5 minutes, and determine the difference between A.M. and P.M. and list some events that occur during both. One fun lesson we did to help us with learning time to the 5 minutes is form a human clock. This week we have been working on concepts such as “half past”, “quarter to”, and “quarter past”. We will review early next week and take the district assessment either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Our next math unit will be about fluency with addition and subtraction within 100. Please continue daily practice with math facts!

Science: We began our unit on “energy”. This is a 5-6 week unit and is very “hands on” with all our different experiments. Our first form of energy we studied this week was all about “magnetic” energy. Next week will work learn about “sound” energy. Other concepts we will study are: light energy, the 3 forms of matter, and renewable and non-renewable energy. Please see the additional sheet attached about our sound project for next week and what to send in by next Thursday.