

N O V E M B E R 1 , 2 0 1 3

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who came to our Fall Fun Fair last Friday evening and supported our school! I was so happy to see so many of my students! Also, I want to extend a huge "thank you" to the Halloween party volunteers who planned a fun party! It was a big success and I appreciate all your help! All the students agreed they loved the masks and mummy wrapping! I was so glad the weather held out for the parade as well. If you attended and you have pictures, please email them to me so I can put them on our website and pass them along for the yearbook!

Next week you will be receiving a note with more information about parent teacher conferences which are coming up at the end of November (Nov. 25th and 26th). I will be confirming the time you signed up for, or contacting you if you have not yet signed up. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you in person to discuss your child's progress!

As we enter the winter season and begin to experience the cold weather I want to remind you to please send your child with a winter coat, hat, and gloves each day.

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

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- Joe and Tyler P were students of the week!
- Mrs. Poole came and co-taught a math lesson on Halloween with me! The students and I enjoyed having her come in!
- Halloween classroom party and parade! Pictures will be posted soon!
- We had 15 students submit storybook character pumpkins! They all turned out adorable! They have been displayed in the media center and the staff voted on them! Tyler B. won 1st place with his Lorax pumpkin. Daniel won 2nd place with his No David pumpkin. Alan won 3rd place with his Rainbow Fish pumpkin. These were very much enjoyed by the entire school. Thank you so much to all the families who spent time doing this project with your child.
- We had a fun "sound band" with Mrs. Dean's class! Thank you for sending in materials for your child to make his/her instrument.
- Pizza Hut coupons went home for the month of October! Great job reading and turning in reading logs on Fridays! Keep it up for Nov.

I am still looking for a veteran to come and be a mystery reader. A note went home about this last week. Please contact me if you have a family member who has served in the services.

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: Over the past few weeks we have spent a great deal of time learning how to determine the main idea (most important idea) of a text. We have learned how to determine the main idea of a single paragraph, multi-paragraphs, of a single chapter, and an entire story! Students have learned to look at clues such as the first sentence, the pictures, and headings to determine what the main idea is. They have also learned how to determine key details that support the main idea. Please be sure to ask your child when they are reading to you each night what the main idea is. Our next two strategies we will begin learning about are dictionary skills and context clues. Students will learn to identify clues in order to help them understand what a word or phrase means. We will continue to focus on long vowels and vowel teams in the coming weeks!

Writing: We have been very busy in writing the past two weeks. I continue to conference with each student weekly to see what they are writing about, help them edit, and give them feedback and ideas to revise their story. This week the students wrote about a fun time outside. The students are developing into young authors and I am so amazed by their creative ideas and writing pieces. Our focus continues to be about adding more detail and revising. I am noticing that not all students are writing stories with a beginning, middle, and an end so we will continue to focus on this concept in the coming weeks to ensure our writing makes sense. Please continue to reinforce writing with proper conventions at home when your child is doing homework.

Math: We finished our 3rd unit on "Time". Our current unit is adding and subtracting numbers within 100. Students have learned how to solve 2 and 3 digit addition problems with and without regrouping. I continue to stress that when they are regrouping or "trading" from the ones to the tens column that it is 1 group of 10. We also learned a common core strategy for solving these problems which is known as the 'open number line'. Be sure to ask your child to show you how to solve a 2-digit addition problem using this strategy! Next week we will focus on 2-digit subtraction problems with and without regrouping. We will spend about 2 more weeks on this unit as we still need to cover adding up to 4 different 2-digit numbers and continue working with story problems. At this point in our year we have a little over half of the class exceeding the district expectation for addition (50+ facts in 4 minutes). I strongly encourage you to work on your child's subtraction facts as it will help them greatly with our next 2 weeks of 2-digit subtraction. Please continue daily practice with math facts!

Science: We have learned about sound and light the past 2 weeks. Students learned about pitch and volume and the difference between these terms. We joined Mr. D's class in a brief activity where students were able to see sound waves produced with a laser and music. This week we learned about light energy and the difference between natural and artificial light. Students also learned about reflection using mirrors. Next week we will learn about the 3 forms of matter and their different attributes.

Save the Date!

**High School Buddies
visit #2
11/21**

The Jacob's High School student will be joining us again in a few weeks for their 2nd session.

**Parent/Teacher
Conferences
11/25 & 11/26**

There will be no school both these days. Information will be sent out next week regarding your time slot. The time slots are 20 minutes. I am currently booked completely Monday evening. I do have openings Tuesday morning.

**No School
11/27th -29th**

There will be no school, Wednesday, November 27th-November 29th in celebration of Thanksgiving.