

N O V E M B E R 1 5 , 2 0 1 3

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

Thank you for working with your child on their "disguise a turkey" project! All four 2nd grade classes did this project and the entire school loves walking down our wing and seeing the creativity and reading the writing! I love this time of the year because I think it is so important to stop and think about all we have to be thankful for. I feel especially thankful to be working at Lake in the Hills Elementary with such amazing students, families, and staff. Thank you for all your support, and most of all, for your partnership.

Now that we are officially experiencing cold weather, please be sure to send your child with the proper attire for going outside for recess. Many tell me their hands and ears are cold on a daily basis. Also, when snow is on the ground, they will need to have snow pants and boots in addition to everything else to be able to go play in the snow.

I am asking for your help in keeping the rubber silly band bracelets and necklaces at home. They are becoming a large distraction to learning and a problem within the classroom. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Next week will be a busy week for us as we have the president of Lake in the Hills coming to be a mystery reader for the whole 2nd grade team on Wednesday, our high school buddies coming on Thursday, and the SPOT store on Friday. Students will be able to sign up to have a pizza party lunch for me if they have 20 spots!

Lastly, thank you for returning the yellow conference forms to me. I am excited to see all of you on either Monday, November 25th or Tuesday November 26th to discuss your child's progress.

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

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- Jason and Madison M. were students of the week!
- Amelia, Emma, and Alan were character ed. winners at our first assembly. They have done an excellent job of being role models and examples of students who value the four areas of respect!
- We have earned many green spots in the hallway. The school-wide goal from now until winter break is to earn 80 green hallway spots in order to have a pajama day and digital story on December 20th!
- Amelia's grandparents, who are retired educators, came and did a fun readers theatre play about Thanksgiving and how it came to be a national holiday!
- We attended a wonderful school-wide Veteran's Day assembly on Monday. We spent the day learning the history behind this holiday and why it is important to recognize veterans. I am in the process of mailing the letters students have written to active members of our military.
- Turkey's, turkey's, turkeys! Ask your child about all the turkey-related activities and projects we have done.
- Mrs. King spent two weeks teaching about the "h brothers", also known as diagraphs. The "h brothers" include: wh, th, ch, sh.
- Our second step lessons have been about learning from our mistakes and using positive self-talk when feeling anxious. Ask your child to give you an example of positive self talk

Our extra snack supply is running low. I keep a supply of extra snacks for students who forget theirs. If you are interested in donating crackers, granola bars, or fruit snacks I would greatly appreciate your donation and so will the students who occasionally forget!

Save the Date!

No School

11/25-11/29

There will be no school during this week due to conferences and Thanksgiving break. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

SPOT Store

11/22

Our class will be going from 10:30 on Friday, November 22nd. They are more than ready to shop ☺

Holiday Shop

12/6

We will be going to the holiday shop on Friday, December 6th from 9-9:15. It is completely optional to send money with your child, but if you do, please put it in a bag or envelope with his/her name.

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: I have finished formally assessing all students and I am pleased with the increase in reading levels compared to the beginning of the year. I will be reviewing where your child is according to the new district rubric during conferences. The past two weeks we have been focusing on dictionary skills and context clues. These two strategies are used when trying to identify what an unknown word means. Students learned how to navigate through an actual dictionary as well as an online one. They learned about guidewords and synonyms and antonyms. They also learned to use the context clues within a sentence or paragraph to help them with what unknown words mean. Often, context clues come before or after the word in the form of a synonym, antonym, explanation, or example. Be sure to ask your child to identify unknown words at home and find context clues to help them. Over the next month, we will begin our study of fables and folktales. The next two weeks we will read many different Aesop's fables and identify the characters, setting, and what the moral or lesson learned is.

Writing: We continue to work on adding more detail to our writing. Students wrote 2 short stories this week about a pet they'd like to get, and a fictional character they created and the adventure of this character! You will be able to review their writing during conferences. Next week, we will do a fun Thanksgiving week-long writing lesson where students take the perspective of a turkey and write a persuasive letter to a human why they should not be eaten. Although, we cover persuasive writing later on in the year, this is a fun introduction to this style of writing!

Math: We have continued learning how to add and subtract within 100. The past two weeks we have worked specifically with subtraction. This operation has proved to be more difficult than 2-digit addition for many. I am seeing lots of simple mathematical errors with basic math facts, which in turn effects the final answer, regardless if they were doing the right steps. As part of the common core rigor, students will need to be able to explain their reasoning of how they solve 2-digit math problems and show visual drawings as well. Please spend some extra time working with 2-digit subtraction with trading at home. Our unit 4 assessment is planned for next Thursday, November 21st. We will review all skills next week and learn our last skill, which involves adding 3, 2-digit numbers. Please continue daily practice with math facts!

Science: We have been having so much fun with our energy unit! Last week we learned about matter (solid, liquid, and gas). This week we had a blast experimenting with heat energy. Students learned their body acts as a source of heat. Ask them what we did with ice cubes and Hershey kisses! Next, week will take a break from Science, to learn about Thanksgiving and Native Americans.