

JANUARY 24, 2014

# Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse



## Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying warm and healthy during this cold-spell we've been experiencing. The month of January is just flying by! In the beginning of February I will be enriching our daily activities to include Groundhog Day, super bowl, and Olympic themed activities that relate to our core concepts! Today you should have received your child's report card for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Inside the envelope was also the winter benchmarking scores for reading and math. Please remember these assessments are given 3 times a year and are a snapshot of your child's growth. Many other factors are taken into consideration when measuring their overall growth. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! I will be giving out 1 spot to each student who returns the signed envelope on Monday!

I want to remind everyone that the Six Flags reading program and the Ozzie Reading Club sheets were sent home this week! I have been telling the students that they can use the time they record on their reading log each night also for these two programs! Please pay close attention to the details and due dates for both these programs so your child can earn a free ticket for each program! I will be sending home the January Pizza Hut Book-It coupons next week with those students who read each night during the month of January! Thanks to those who purchased books from the January Scholastic book order! The students get so excited when they get to order a book!

Also, this week you should have received information on the "Flat Stanley" project. Please remember to send in however many envelopes your child needs, as well as the correct postage. We will begin working on those letters next week in writing and I hope to put them in the mail by the end of next week. Please be sure to contact whoever will be receiving the letter, so they know it's coming and can start thinking of ideas. On average, "Flat Stanley" stays for about a week wherever he goes and then gets mailed back to school! If he is traveling internationally, he usually stays there a little longer. If possible, I'd like to have them back by April! If for some reason, a package gets sent to your personal home, please send it to school for us to see! We will be hanging artifacts from all over the country/world on a bulletin board and charting the different locations!

With Valentine's Day approaching fast, you will find the class roster on the back of this newsletter. Please remember if you send anything in to be passed out that you send enough for every student! We have a total of 24 students in our class!

## Highlights from the past two weeks:

- We studied Martin Luther King Jr. and the students wrote about their own dreams they have for themselves, their family, our school, and our world. These were simply precious!
- The school SPOT store was Friday, January 24th! The students bought many great items and several will be having a special lunch with me!
- Emma's grandma was a mystery reader!
- Kyra and Brandon were students of the week!
- Our "Second Step" program focused on problem solving. Students are learning what S-T-E-P stands for. Be sure to ask them if they know what the "s" and "t" stand for!
- Our class had the hallway banner twice! Yay for being quiet in the hallways ☺

Our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school is next Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>! We will be doing a variety of fun activities that involve the number "100".

## Save the Date!

**Early Release**  
2/5

There will be an early release on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Staff members will be involved with professional development regarding the common core standards.

**Valentine's Day Party**  
2/14

Our party will be in the morning from 8:45-9:45. A note will be sent out in the near future for those who want to sign up to bring something! Please see the back of this letter for the roster.

**6 Flags Sheets Due**  
2/24

If your child is participating in the 6 flags reading program, please turn their sheet in no later than February 24th!

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

**Reading:** The past two weeks we have been reviewing previously learned comprehension strategies such as Comparing and Contrasting two stories and Questioning. I have been connecting our animal unit with reading in the book choices we read and listened to as a whole class. In the coming weeks, we will review authors purpose and then begin our focus on the "close read" strategy, which will involve the whole class deeply analyzing a couple texts over several days. Close reads require students to read a text 2-3 times in order to understand it in a deeper and more meaningful way.

**Writing:** As a class, we have been so busy writing letters! We followed along with some lessons from the Being a Writer curriculum where students worked in partnerships to write a letter to me, and to some of their classmates! In learning about the five parts of a friendly letter (date, greeting, body, closing, and signature), we have been really working on conventions (neatness, correct punctuation, capitalization, spacing). Next week, we will work on our Flat Stanley letters and get them ready to be mailed out. Please be sure they know who they are writing to and can spell the recipients name. Your children are beyond excited about this project and cannot wait to receive mail! As a reminder, I am having all the response letters/packages sent back to the school so we can see them as a class and then they will be sent home with your child. Our next writing unit will be Expository Writing, which is when a writer explains or shares information. Students will be introducing a topic, using facts and definitions to develop points, and providing a conclusion. This is an extensive unit that requires a lot of focus and detail and we will begin this after we finish our Flat Stanley project.

**Math:** In math we have been working on our unit of geometry and fractions. We spent about 2 weeks learning about different 2D shapes. We also studied the cube, a 3D shape, and how it is different than 2D based on its attributes. Students will be responsible for knowing different attributes for the 2D shapes such as how many sides, vertexes, angles, and faces (for the cube), as well as know how to draw the shapes. Please review these concepts at home with your child. This week we started learning about fractions. We focused on halves, thirds, and fourths. Students learned how to partition rectangles and circles into smaller and equal pieces. They have been learning the difference in size between the three types of fractions we are learning. They have also learned how to write fractions, identify fractions, and shade in fractions based on an amount given. As of now, I am planning for our test to be at the end of next week. In learning about these concepts, we had fun making our snowmen fractions, which are displayed outside our classroom! It was also fun to make our "all about me" fraction foldables, and operate in our fraction cookie bakery (be sure to "order" a fraction cookie from your child). Please continue to practice math facts each night for 5-10 minutes, specifically subtraction ☺ I'd love to add some names to our popcorn incentive board! Our next unit that we will start will be all about money! This is always one of my favorite units, as it has many applications to real life, and who doesn't like talking and work with money!! Students will have many opportunities to work with dollar bills, pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. They will be solving word problems and representing a given total using multiple strategies and different coins.

**Science:** We have switched back to Science for the next several weeks. Our unit of study is on the different animal classes. Our first animal class we learned about this week is fish! Ask your child what characteristics a fish has. Ask them if a dolphin and whale are considered fish and see if they can explain why or why not! Next week, we will be learning about reptiles. The students are completing an animal book with all the facts we learn which will serve as a study guide for them down the road! Students have learned vocabulary such as: vertebrae, warm-blooded, and cold-blooded.