

F E B R U A R Y 7 , 2 0 1 4

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse



Dear Parents,

These last few weeks have been crazy with all our "cold days"! I was really rooting for the groundhog to not see his shadow so we can be done with all these freezing temperatures! It has been nice getting back into a routine this week; however, there are a few "no school days" in February so please be sure to mark your calendar for Feb 17th, Feb 27th (early release @12:30), and Feb 28th.

Next Friday we will have our Valentine's Day party in the morning from 8:45-9:45. A pink note should have come home today asking for your assistance with supplies needed for the party. If you're out and about shopping this weekend and know you're going to get something, please send me an email to ensure we don't get a ton of one item. I want to remind you that if you are sending your child with Valentine's Day cards or something else to pass out please be sure to send enough for everyone. Additionally, all food items must be store bought. We have a total of 24 students in our class and I have attached our class list on the back of this form. I will be sure to post any pictures on my website! If you have any questions regarding the party, please don't hesitate to contact me!

As a reminder, the Ozzie Reading Program and the Six Flags Reading Program are both going on. 1st base for the Ozzie Reading Program is due next Tuesday, February 11th for anyone who is participating! Please send in the little slip!

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

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- We celebrated the 100th day of school last Friday! Each student received a 100th day bookmark and 100th day pencil from me. Additionally, each student in the school received a cheese stick and two crackers to represent "100". Moreover, they created 100th day art, did math stations centered on the number 100, and wrote 2 fun writing pieces that also focused on the number 100!
- There was an assembly last Friday that connected literature and acting and taught kids that books can come to life with a little imagination!
- Pizza Hut coupons were sent home last Friday for the month of February. Great job to all the students who read the required minutes!
- Students enjoyed Jump Rope for Heart this week! Thanks to all who donated towards that fundraiser and cause!
- The class filled our marble jar and they voted to have a pajama party and to bring a stuffed animal.
- Sienna and Tyler B were students of the week!
- We had fun discussing the start of the 2014 Winter Olympics. The students have been VERY excited and interested in the events and athletes. I look forward to enriching our lessons with more olympic-related activities!

Please be sure to send any Flat Stanley's/Flat Stella's to school if they are sent to your home. Our bulletin board is awaiting souvenirs/artifacts! Once shared with the class, your child can take everything home to keep ☺

Save the Date!

Valentine's Day Party
2/14

Our party will be in the morning from 8:45-9:45. Please see the back of this letter for our class list.

No School
2/17

There will be no school on Monday, February 17th in honor of Presidents Day. Enjoy the 3-day weekend ☺

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 Questioning and Authors Purpose. Next week we will be reading many non-fiction books and determining the main idea and supporting details. In preparing students for the common core and PARCC assessment they will take next year, we will continue to focus on reading higher-level non-fiction stories that challenge students to use context clues to identify unknown words. They will continue to work with texts that have many text features as these formats challenge students to find the most important information out of a sea of information given to them. This week we also began using the new program titled "Words Their Way". This is a phonics program that we will be using weekly that allows students to sort words based on similar patterns. The pattern of this week was "aw/au" that went in conjunction with Mrs. King's Monday lesson. The repeated experiences throughout the week with this new program will build on their spelling foundation.

Writing: We finished up our Flat Stanley project last week and all 50+ of them have been mailed out! I look forward to all of them returning back from the interesting locations! This week we started our next writing unit, which is "Expository Writing". The purpose of this style of writing is to inform someone about a topic by providing facts. This week, students learned that when writing an expository writing piece, they must have 4 paragraphs (introduction, 2 main paragraphs (body), and a closing). Next week they will learn that when writing an introduction they must "hook" the reader. Three types of "hooks" we will learn about are: Asking a Question, Painting a Picture, and Onomatopoeia (using sound words to capture a readers attention). Within each of these four paragraphs, students will also learn next week that they must use transitional words and phrases to make the paragraphs and sentences flow nicely. This style of writing is very complex and often overwhelming to students in the beginning, as it is the longest form of writing they've been expected to do. For our first example, we are going through it as a class and filling out a graphic organizer together and then forming the sentences and paragraphs about a topic they are very familiar with, PBIS. I am breaking up the example we are doing as a class by paragraphs and focusing on a different element each day. In the next two weeks, we will continue working on expository writing and their topic will be information about the presidents. Students will research a president in class, collect facts about their president, and then write an expository essay providing information they learned.

Math: We took our unit 6 assessment on Tuesday for geometry and fractions. We then started unit 7 this week, which is all about money! This unit will continue for the remainder of February. We will continue to work with identifying coins, showing multiple combinations of a given amount of money, counting mixed coins, and solving word problems that involve money. The most helpful thing you can do to help your child during this unit is to practice each night with real coins. You can give them a pile and have them count the coins, or tell them a value and have them show you how they'd make that amount. Many of them told me they already got to do that this week, and it left a great impression with them! Finding ways to excite them about learning is one of the best things we can do in our partnership of educating your child! With that being said, I have many links on my website that will allow them to practice with money. Students who earned their placement on the popcorn board for the month of January enjoyed their popcorn treat and freebie from the timed test this week! Congrats to Aria and Madison M for mastering 50+ subtraction facts. Please continue to practice math facts each night for 5-10 minutes, specifically subtraction ☺

Science: So far, students have learned about the animal groups: fish, reptiles, and birds. They have learned the characteristics for each animal classification and different examples in each animal group. Ask your child if they know the difference between warm blooded and cold blooded. In the next two weeks, we will be studying amphibians and mammals. Be sure to ask your child what their favorite animal group has been so far and one interesting fact they have learned!