

MARCH 7, 2014

Second Grade News

Miss Sprouse

Dear Parents,

It was so nice seeing all of you at the 2nd grade musical on Wednesday night! So far March has been a busy and exciting month for us! We had a blast with all the Dr. Seuss days! We still continue to learn about him and enjoy his stories! It is my personal goal to own all of his stories someday! Looking ahead to next week, we will have a special visitor for art on Friday! My long-time friend will be joining us and teaching an art lesson! She is a phenomenal artist and minored in art in college.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there are two fun and optional family fun projects during the month of March! The Shamrock project is due this upcoming Monday, March 10th! I will be hanging them in the hallway! The second project (leprechaun trap) has the students very excited and that is due next Friday, March 14th! I had hoped that we could have skyped with Natasha Wing, but due to a few reasons, we are not able to, and I'll be hunting for a new author to skype with and I will keep you posted!

Lastly, for those who are working on the Ozzie Reading program, third base is due next Tuesday, March 11th. Additionally, this will be the last month for the Pizza-Hut Book-It program! I'll be sure to send the coupons home before spring break ☺ Be sure to check my class website under "announcements" for the "Words Their Way" words each week in case your child misplaces a few words or forgets them. As always, any questions or concerns feel free to email me at Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org



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- The 2nd grade musical was March 5th! Great job to all the students!
- We had the hallway banner!
- The students moved desks! Be sure to ask who they are sitting with ☺
- The Six Flags reading program ended! Great job to the 11 students who will be receiving their ticket later in the year!
- Mrs. Poole dressed up on March 3rd as Cat in the Hat and read a story to k-2 students and gave them each a Dr. Seuss pencil topper!

March book orders will be due on Wednesday, March 12th to ensure they arrive before Spring Break!

Save the Date!

**End of 3rd
Quarter/Heavenly Hats
3/14**

It's hard to believe, but the 3rd quarter ends on Friday, March 14th! Also, that same day the students can donate money towards cancer research and wear a hat! This was the rescheduled date from when it was cancelled earlier this year.

**Spring Break
3/22-3/30**

Spring break will start after the academic day on Friday, March 21st. School will resume on Monday, March 31st.

**Report Cards Go
Home
4/4**

3rd quarter report cards are scheduled to go home Friday, April 4th.

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: During the past two weeks we have been focusing on the strategy of "Inferring". This strategy involves a reader taking the evidence from the book (words and pictures) and using their schema (background knowledge) to create new meaning. I have been working with the students to not only make an inference, but to support it with restating evidence and their schema (ie-I infer...because...). Students have been inferring the meaning behind Dr. Seuss quotes, given scenarios, and events in stories! I am really pleased with the growth I've seen with this strategy as well as the application to small group! We will continue to work on this strategy for one more week. After that, we will do a one week author study that will include a review of all the strategies we've been working with such as questioning, main idea, context clues, authors purpose, etc. We have also had a lot of fun learning about synonyms antonyms. We played an antonym bingo game, did an activity with paint chips, and played a Dr. Seuss "I Have, Who Has" game. Mrs. King reviewed "r control" and taught the "would, could, should" song and dance!

Writing: Students have been hard at work crafting their expository president reports. They have spent the last 2 weeks researching, drafting a rough draft, conferencing with me, and completing a final copy. We have begun to share the reports and picture booklets they made about their president! For the next two weeks leading up to break, we will be working on "What are the qualities of a good pet sitter?" I will be looking to see them working primarily by themselves for this writing pieces, as I've modeled and scaffolded a lot for the first two expository pieces. After we return from break, we will do a short unit on "poetry" and then will begin our animal reports mid April! By this point in the year, your child should be able to write complete sentences that include all the writing conventions. We continue to receive Flat Stanley's/Stella's almost everyday and we love seeing the pictures and souvenirs!

Math: We just finished our math unit on money this week. One of the highlights from this unit was our 2-day jeopardy review game this week! It was amazing to see the students work in their teams to solve the problems, and for some, this was a new game they've never played! Students took the assessment this week on Wednesday and I was beyond pleased with the scores! I always enjoy teaching this unit and we had fun with the different computer games, smartboard lessons, and fun hands on activities. We will be reviewing all topics covered up to this point until Spring Break. With common core, it's all about deep understanding and mastery, so we're going to take some time to go back and review the concepts from earlier in the year. Our next unit will be on Measurement. This unit will be about 3-4 weeks long. I did notice a decline in scores last week with the addition and subtraction facts. I will be giving the final assessment next week for the 3rd quarter, so please spend some time practicing the facts you're your child. Just as a reminder, the end of the year district goal of 50 facts in 4 minutes.

Science: We have finished our last animal group which was mammals! Students have finished their animal booklets and those will be making their way home in the coming weeks! We will spend time reviewing the 5 animal groups next week and the different characteristics of each of the animal classes. The week of March 17th we will begin our next Science unit on "Biomes". We will be studying the "grasslands", "desert", and "rainforest"!