

M A R C H 2 1 , 2 0 1 4

Second Grade News

Dear Parents,

Miss Sprouse

Thank you so much to everyone who helped their child with their shamrock and leprechaun trap! The leprechaun traps turned out wonderful and the students had fun going to the other second grade classrooms to see theirs as well. Our class had the highest turnout for both projects! Unfortunately we didn't catch a leprechaun, but we did have a very sneaky one who messed up our classroom and left little surprises!

Additionally, I want to thank everyone for being so supportive! Our class was one of the top classes for raising money for Heavenly Hats. Additionally, we were one of the top classes for the Relay for Life coin drop competition this week. Thank you for everything each of you do for our classroom, school, and for constantly allowing your children the opportunity to help others in need. I feel so blessed to have such wonderful families to work together with! ☺

Next, I want to let you know of a new website we have started to use in the classroom. The website is www.tenmarks.com and it is a wonderful resource in terms of reviewing common core skills in the format of online testing. As many of you may know, in the next few years the primary grades will also be expected to take the PARCC testing on a computer or digital device, and this is a great resource for your child to practice on. Today I sent home a letter that better explains the free website and that lists your child's name and login information. We have been integrating this site into our weekly lessons 1-2 times a week.

Lastly, it's hard to believe that Spring Break is here when our weather hasn't exactly been nice or warm! Just a reminder that the first day back is Monday, March 31st! I hope you and your family have a fun-filled break whether you are traveling or staying around the area. I will be staying local, but I plan to work on wedding planning and wedding-related projects! It's hard to believe it's about 125 days away! The students have no homework over break; however I encourage you to have them read, practice math facts, and post on the class blog if they are looking for something to do!

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

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- We visited the SPOT store today! I'm looking forward to having my ice cream party with the students who signed up for me!
- We had my friend, Miss Catherine, join us for art last Friday! They had a blast painting!
- The school has hired a full-time media specialist. The students enjoyed meeting their new computer teacher, Mrs. Goluch this week.
- The students loved having crazy hair day as a reward for reaching our school-wide P.B.I.S. goal of showing respect in the lunchroom.
- We had spring pictures on Tuesday, March 18th!
- Austin and Amelia were students of the week! We only have a few more students to go!
- Ozzie Reading Program ended! Great job to Chase, Anthony, Joe, Aria, and Tyler P.
- Students received their final Pizza-Hut coupon for the month of March. Unfortunately, this was the last month for that program.

Clipboards Needed!

I am looking for clipboard donations for our classroom. We only have a couple that I've personally purchased, and I'm looking to get some more so that when we are doing movement lessons around the classroom that requires us to be up and active, all students have one to write on! Also, as it get's warmer, I like to work outside occasionally, so I'd appreciate any donations! Thank you in advance ☺

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: We finished reviewing the strategy of inferring. Students are expected to infer in small group as well as whole group and I'm happy to see them applying this strategy that strengthens their comprehension as well as increases their level of engagement. This week we did an author study on Dr. Seuss. In celebrating his books as well as his birthday this month, I thought it'd be neat to have an all-encompassing mini-unit on his life. We learned about his childhood years, how he obtained his pudendum, and the timeline of major events that occurred throughout his life. Be sure to ask your child to tell you 3 facts about Theodore Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss). After spring break, we will begin our next strategy, which is called "synthesizing". When synthesizing, students are activating their higher level thinking skills and making changes to their thinking as a story progresses. For example, they may start off by saying "at first I was thinking", but later on they may say "after learning __, I now think __". We will work on this strategy for the month of April. As you have seen with Words Their Way, we've been studying r-controlled words as well as silent consonants. Be sure to ask your child what some of the silent consonants are! We will focus on past tense endings such as "ed".

Writing: We have been busy working on expository reports! Each week we spend the beginning of the week previewing our next topic, reviewing the 4 parts of an expository essay, and doing some shared writing. The remainder of the week is a writers workshop model where students are given time to independently write while I pull students to conference with. When conferencing with each student, I review what they've worked on, check for conventions, and offer structural or content-related advice to strengthen their writing. Last week, students wrote an expository report about how to catch a sneaky leprechaun. This week, they wrote an expository report about the qualities that make a great pet sitter! Many of the students are able to independently write an expository essay from start to finish with little to no assistance. We will be taking a break from expository essays for a little while after spring break to start our next unit on poetry. We will learn about the different styles of poetry for several weeks and then revisit expository writing in order to start our animal reports! The students are already looking forward to these and can't wait to see which animal they get to research and write about!

Math: We have started our new unit on "Measurement". Students learned they can measure length, height, width, weight, temperature, and capacity. They used their rulers to measure items using the units of feet, inches, and centimeters. We also measured larger items using a yardstick and meter stick. We had a blast going on a measurement scavenger hunt in the classroom, measuring different parts our body, and measuring a gummy worm! We will be spending about 3 weeks after break on this unit, and going deeper into concepts. Be sure to ask your child what unit of measurement they would use for certain items to see if they know the difference in size. Please spend some time with your child over spring break practicing their addition and subtraction math facts. So many of them are very close for subtraction, and I'd like to see them reach 50 before the end of the year, as this is the 2nd grade target.

Science: This week we started our next Science unit on "Biomes". We learned about the Prairie/Grasslands and what plants and animals live here as well as the characteristics of this biome. After break we will review Grasslands and begin learning about the Desert.

Save the Date!

School Resumes
3/31

School starts up again on Monday, March 31st! I hope everyone has a wonderful break!

Progress Reports go home
4/4

3rd Quarter report cards will be going home on Friday, April 4th. Please let me know if you have any questions about your child's report card.

Book Fair/Art Fair/
4/11

Please join us on Friday, April 11th from 5-8 pm to shop at the spring book fair and check out some of the amazing art projects we've done this year that will be displayed in the hallway!