

A P R I L 1 1 , 2 0 1 4

Second Grade News

Dear Parents,

Miss Sprouse

It is hard to believe we only have 7 weeks left of school! As the school year winds down we have many fun activities planned, so please be checking your child's green folder and assignment notebook in the coming weeks! Now that we are on the down swing of the year I would encourage you to talk with your child about a specific academic goal they can focus on and accomplish during our remaining weeks. Unfortunately, the classroom behavior has not been the greatest the past two weeks, so I'd appreciate your assistance with reviewing the appropriate behavior during school with your child. I know we can do it!

Next week your child will be participating in the Spring Benchmarking testing for reading and math. This data will show you the growth your child has experienced in both reading fluency (words per minute), as well as in math. These results will be sent home on Friday, May 2nd. I am so excited to see the growth they've all had since January.

I wanted to extend another "Thank You" to all the volunteers so far this year! Your volunteered time is much appreciated! You should have received your invitation for the "Volunteer Tea" which is on Thursday April 24th from 3:00-3:45. Hope to see you there!

Lastly, I wanted to remind you that we DO have school on Monday, April 21st due to snow day make-ups!

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

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- We enjoyed an ice cream party for raising the most money for the Relay for Life coin drop!
- Our class won a prize for being the first primary class to return all registration packets! Way to go and thank you for helping our class!!
- Daniel was student of the week! We only have two more friends left and then we'll be done!
- Third quarter report cards were sent home! Thank you for returning the envelopes!
- I had a nice lunch and ice cream treat with the 8 students who signed up to spend extra time with me at the spot store! There will be one more spot store during the last week of school in May!
- We loved shopping for books at the spring Book Fair.

Looking ahead: Shoebox needed!

Later in the month, we will begin our animal dioramas. This project will require your child to have a shoebox to use. They will be creating the biome that their animal lives in as well as using modeling clay to make their animal. We will most likely start this project the week of April 21-25th, so I wanted to give you some notice to find a shoebox. The size of the shoebox does not matter! This project will be worked on during Art and Science.

Here is what we have been learning...

Reading: Last week we began 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 __". In addition, it involves using one's schema (background knowledge) and putting it together with new information to re-evaluate one's thinking. Please ask your child what analogy we use to help us remember and make sense of this abstract strategy (Hint: seeds and flowers). Going along with this strategy, we spent the week researching different dog breeds and synthesizing which ones would be best for given scenarios. Ask your child what his/her scenario was, what dog they recommended, and why! We will continue to practice this strategy for at least 2 more weeks. In terms of Words Their Way and our phonics pattern, we've been learning about "ed". We are anxiously awaiting Mrs. Kings "ed" time machine!

Writing: We have spent the past two weeks using our Being a Writer curriculum to learn about the genre of poetry! The class loves this style of writing as it allows them flexibility, many opportunities for creative writing, and because they are often short in length! Last week we wrote poems about animals and food. This week our poems were about school. Starting next week, we will be going back to expository writing which is writing to inform. With this style of writing, students are learning the foundations of a 4-5-paragraph essay, which will best prepare them for the intermediate grades as well as standardized testing. With this style of writing, their information must be factual and organized by paragraphs that include transition words and a hook. We will review these elements on Monday. They will be researching an animal and writing a research paper about that animal. Be sure to ask your child what animal they are researching and what interesting facts they're learning! After we finish writing the reports, we will be learning how to make PowerPoint's for the reports. With the Common Core Standards calling for technology integration and student usage, this will be a great introduction to a publishing program!

Math: The past two weeks we have been busy measuring! Students have had daily opportunities to measure items. One of the best lessons was when we were able to go outside and hop like bunny rabbits and then measure the hops! We also continue to go to the computer lab on Thursdays to work on the website TenMarks which allows them practice with computer-based problems and assessments. Throughout all these lessons, we have been focusing on the concepts of measuring the same object using multiple units, estimating and then comparing that to actual measurements, and solving story problems related to measurement. The main units we have been working with are: centimeters, meters, inches, feet, and yards. We will be reviewing next week and most likely testing on Wednesday. This will conclude our unit on measurement. Our next unit will be on: Representing, Analyzing, and Interpreting Data.

Science: Last week we learned about the Desert through completing their biome packet and reading a story called "Hotel Cactus" and illustrating and labeling the parts of a cactus and what they do for the plant. This week we started our two-week study on the Rainforest! This is such a fun biome to learn about! This week we focused on the four levels of the rainforest and their characteristics. Next week we will continue learning about this biome. We will then begin our dioramas!

Save the Date!

Early Release
4/17

There will be early release on Thursday, April 17th. Teachers will be participating in professional development in the afternoon.

No School
4/18

There will be no school on Friday, April 18th. Enjoy the long Easter weekend!

2nd grade field trip
5/21

Please mark on your calendar that on May 21st the 2nd grade students will be going on a field trip to Randall Oaks Farm. More information will be sent out in the near future ☺