

JANUARY 6, 2014

Miss Sprouse

Second Grade News

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and fun-filled holiday break! I spent mine with family, friends, and my fiancée. I also spent a lot of time wedding planning! July will be here before I know it! I am looking forward to hearing all about the gifts the students received and the fun activities they did over break! This week we will be busy reviewing classroom and school-wide PBIS expectations in order to show respect to self, property, others, and teaching. I am looking forward to the second half of the school year as we have a lot of exciting units ahead!

Looking forward, I want to mention several things coming up! First, our class will be starting a "Flat Stanley" letter writing project at the end of this month that will be part of our next writing unit, which covers friendly letter writing. I will be sending information home in the near future that outlines more about this fun project and the specific details. Please start thinking of someone your child can mail his or her "Flat Stanley" to! This project is so fun, and I actually did this when I was a kid! My "Flat Stanley" visited my relatives in Hawaii for a week and I still have all the stuff that was mailed back to me as part of the project! Also, the 100th day of school is coming up at the end of the month! I can't believe how fast the year is going! More information about the 100th day activities will be coming as it gets closer.

Lastly, please remember to send the appropriate outwear with your child for recess. Students must have all of the following in order to play in the snow: winter coat, snow pants, snow boots, gloves, and hat! As a reminder, in order for us to go outside, the temperature must be above 10 degrees, including wind chill. In addition, there is a new policy we will be following for students who do not turn in homefun, complete class work in a timely manner, or have behavior problems. This is a new school-wide policy that is taking effect and students will no longer be standing on the wall or missing five minutes of recess. Instead, second grade students that fall in one of these categories will either stay inside on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday for the whole recess in what we refer to as a "study hall". If a student does not bring homefun on a Monday or Wednesday, or changes their behavior card to yellow or red on one of these days, they will go outside that day, and will be inside on the next available day. If you have any questions about this new change, please don't hesitate to contact me and I can clarify for you! I have to say I am beyond pleased with our homefun turn-in rate!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at

Samantha.Sprouse@d300.org

Highlights from the past two weeks:

- The week before break the entire second grade was lucky enough to have a Polar Express party! Please check my website for pictures from that day!
- We had a school-wide pajama day for earning 80 hallway spots as part of our PBIS incentive!
- Tyler B.'s grandmother was a Mystery Reader!
- December Pizza-Hut coupons were handed out for reading logs! Great job ☺
- All students had a desk change to start off the year right!

I am pleased to announce that I have been awarded a grant for our classroom. Last year I wrote a grant to receive a large number of culturally relevant multicultural books for my classroom, as diversity is a topic I am very passionate about. I received the funding earlier this year and the books have finally arrived. I look forward to integrating them into our daily lessons and enriching your child's education while exposing him or her to different cultures and lifestyles during the second half of the year!

Save the Date!

Report Cards Go Home

1/15

2nd quarter report cards will be going home on Wednesday, January 15th. Please remember the standards are to be met by the end of the year. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

No School

1/17 & 1/20

There will be no school on Friday, January 17th as this is a district in-service day for all staff. There will be no school on Monday, January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Midterms/Assembly

1/31

AimsWeb progress reports will be sent home on Friday, January 31st. The charts will show a snapshot of your child's growth in reading and math. We will also have a fun school-wide assembly that day!

Here is what we will be learning...

Reading: During the month of January, we will be reviewing previously learned comprehension strategies such as comparing and contrasting two similar stories, questioning, author's purpose, and identifying the main idea of singular and multi-paragraph passages. We will review elements of these strategies that we learned earlier in the year, and then expand our knowledge and understanding of them even more! We will continue to practice applying these strategies with both fiction and non-fiction stories. Additionally, we will be reviewing all of our Daily 5 expectations to start the year off on the right reading foot! These are the independent activities your child is doing while I am reading with a small group of students. Our phonics focus this week is "c says, g says". We will also review the sounds of "y". As mentioned before, students are expected to be applying the phonics strategies when they read as well as when they write.

Writing: This week we will be reading "Snowy Day" and writing our own snowy day stories. Students will be reflecting on their prior experiences of a snowy day and which activities they enjoyed doing and the sequence in which they occurred. These will be displayed in the hallway once we finish them, and they will make their way home in a few weeks for you to read! We will also spend some time reviewing conventions and writing expectations such as complete sentences, using capitals and ending marks, and using our neatest handwriting. Now that we are in the second half of the year, I fully expect students to be following these writing rules. Next week we will begin our letter-writing unit. We will learn the different components of a friendly letter, practice writing many different letters based on our Being a Writer curriculum, and then begin our Flat Stanley project towards the end of January. The idea of this project comes from the book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown, which we will be reading and discussing in the coming weeks. Please think of what friends or relatives your son or daughter can mail their "Flat Stanley" to. If possible, try to think of someone in different states or countries! They may mail more than one. More information will be sent out on this project, but I wanted to allow you time to start preparing.

Math: We will be starting our next math unit this week titled "Reasoning With Shapes". I have typed up another parent common core guide for this unit to help you better understand the topics, vocabulary, and types of problems your child will be learning about. This week we will be focusing on exploring 2D shapes. Students will be learning about polygons, quadrilaterals, triangles, and the difference between a rectangle and square. Next week, we will continue to learn all about 2D shapes and fractions (halves, thirds, fourths). This unit should be about 2 and half weeks long. Please remember to practice math facts with your child nightly, especially after the break! We will continue to review at school by going to the computer lab to practice xtramath.org, using drill donut sheets, and other fun math fact fluency games!

Social Studies: We will be spending 2 weeks learning about important historical figures. A few historical figures we will be learning about are: Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Alexander Graham Bell. After the two weeks, we will switch back to Science and begin our animal unit! We will be learning about five different classes of animals. This is such a fun unit and I know the students will love it!