



# Second Grade Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

October 1, 2009

## Mark your calendars....

- October 1** Back To School Night
- October 12** Open House
- October 15** Flu Clinic for Students
- October 16** No School- MSTA Conference
- October 30** End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period, Walk for the Homeless and Halloween party/parade at 2pm
- November 2** No School- Professional Day
- November 11/12** Half days- Parent Conferences

## REMINDERS.....

- To be consistent and to rid of any confusion the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team has assigned each space on the green behavior calendar.
  - Top Row=Math
  - Middle Row=Book Club
  - Last Row=Homeroom

Ex.

12	Math
	Book Club
	Homeroom

- Please remember to sign the green homework sheet and return to school every Friday.
- Please continue to make sure your child returns his or her Book Club bag daily. This bag includes any guided reading books and other resources used in classroom instruction.
- Your child should be reading for 15 minutes each night. Books include those chosen from a classroom library, the media center, or a guided reading book. Books may be reread to increase fluency and reinforce key vocabulary.
- For extra practice in writing, have your child start a journal. Set aside a time before bed to have your child write about the events of the day. Be sure to remind your child to add details and edit their writing. An added challenge would be to revise for new and interesting beginnings and words.

## Science

We are continuing our unit on balancing and weighing. Students have been introduced to three variables that affect balance: *Position of weight*  
*Amount of weight*  
*Position of fulcrum*

As students use “equal-arm” balances to compare four to six objects, they will develop strategies for placing them in serial order from lightest to heaviest.

## Social Studies

Students are introduced to United States geography as they learn about physical and human-made features and the regions associated with each.

Key vocabulary words included in this unit include...

<i>Physical features</i>	<i>Landmark</i>
<i>Human-made features</i>	<i>Gulf</i>
<i>Lake</i>	<i>river</i> <i>Ocean</i>
<i>Peninsula</i>	<i>Mountains</i> <i>Landform</i>
<i>Globe</i>	<i>Equator</i> <i>North Pole</i>
<i>South Pole</i>	<i>Temperature</i> <i>climate</i>

## Writing

Students are finishing their first personal narratives. This story has been taken through the following writing process. Students are evaluated on how they use the process, as well as their use of the components of a personal narrative.

### The Writing Process includes...

- prewriting/planning
- drafting
- revising
- editing
- publishing
- presenting

You can help at home by discussing how “good writers” continually revise their writing to make it better.

# READING

Students have finished the Reading 3D assessment given three times yearly to determine reading levels. They have begun formal guided reading groups. We will be learning many concepts in Book Club. Our focus will be on elements of a story, such as problem/solution, character traits and setting, along with plot, cause and effect, and facts vs. opinions, as we will also be reviewing the variety of strategies good readers use to decode and determine meanings of words

Please continue to review the components of brief constructed responses (BCR's). Below is the rubric used to evaluate written responses.

## Rubric for "Brief Constructed Responses" BCR's

- 3 named the book or story, answered all parts of the questions correctly, and gave two text-related examples
- 2 answered all parts of the question correctly and gave only one text-related example
- 1 answered only part of the question and/or gave no text-related example
- 0 did not answer the question asked or copied directly from the text



# MATH

This month we will continue to work on comparing numbers, digit position, representation and expanded notation. We will also identify numeric patterns, pattern rules, and learn to collect and interpret data. Please review the following vocabulary with your child.

*Unit One Vocabulary:*

*Expanded notation*

*Increasing*

*Numeric pattern*

*Expression*

*Less than*

*Rule*

*Greater than*

*Number sentence*

*Survey*

*identify*

We also need assistance in helping your child practice his addition and subtractions basic facts. Please use the weekly mad minute practice sheets along with flashcards or any other games. A good website for additional practice of basic facts is <http://www.mrsbogucki.com/aemes/resource/apps/madmath/>.

Thank you.....

Thank you for your support at home! Please continue to review the behavior calendar stapled inside the folder. You can celebrate the great choices your child is making and/or guide him/her in making better choices. Thanks again for your support!!

~The Second Grade Teachers