



Second Grade Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 4, 2009

Mark your calendars....

September 7 No School- Labor Day
September 24 Back to School Night Grades 3-5
September 28 No School- Yom Kippur
October 1 **Back to School Night Grades 1-2**

REMINDERS.....

- 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. Please initial the homework calendar each.

Science

As we begin our unit on balancing and weighing, students will be 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.

Writing

In writing, students will plan personal narratives using a topic list they have developed. After drafting a few pieces, they will later choose a narrative to revise and edit using the writing process and skills taught in class.

Some of our target skills include:

- Using "I" in personal narratives
- Having a beginning, middle and ending
- Telling a story in logical order
- Including story elements such as characters and setting
- Focusing on one writing topic.

You can help at home by discussing writing topics to be added to your child's "personal topic list". Share family stories your child may have forgotten.

Social Studies

Students are learning how a democracy depends on citizens to obey laws, vote, participate and stay informed. We are also learning about community, state, and national officials who are chosen by citizens.

Key vocabulary words included in this unit include...

law
rule
citizen
protect
safe
respect
vote
democracy
rights
responsibility

READING

Book Club has started! Your child may have a different Book Club teacher than his or her homeroom teacher. You will have the opportunity to meet this teacher on Back to School Night, October 1st.

We have started the first of three county mandated reading assessments this week. These assessments help us to better meet the needs of your child as a reader. In addition, your child will be writing in response to what he or she has read. We will be teaching and reviewing the components of these brief constructed responses (BCR's) throughout the year. Below is the rubric used to evaluate these responses. While these BCR's are given in class, please review how they are evaluated with your child in order for him or her to give the most detailed answer.

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 only part of the question correctly and/or 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 be working on addition, even/odd numbers, comparing/ordering numbers, and making and interpreting graphs. Please review the following vocabulary with your child.

Unit One Vocabulary:

Sum

Addend

Expanded notation

Addition/subtraction

Digit

Place value (hundreds, tens, and ones)

Greater than/less than

Skip counting

Odd/even

You may encounter some of this vocabulary in the attached practice sheets for your use at home. These help you and your child review math concepts taught in class. 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.....

All of you! You have helped your child get off to a great start in second grade. Please continue to check his or her folder daily for important announcements. Please also 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 for your support!!

~The Second Grade Teachers