



The Second Grade Scoop!!!!

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Important

Upcoming Dates:

February 2nd

Report Cards Distributed.

February 7th

InView Testing

February 14th

Valentine's Day Parties

February 21st

No School Presidents' Day

Dear Parents,

We can hardly believe that we are half way through second grade!!! We have been working so hard in all academic areas using our strategies and learning skills.

We are in the process of gathering information about students in order to provide each student with challenging instruction in Grade 3. This process is known as global screening. Students will be assessed on two subtests from the InView: Analogies and Quantitative Reasoning on the morning of February 7th.

Valentine's Day is coming up soon! We will have our Valentine's Day parties at approximately 2:15 p.m. on February 14th. If you plan on giving valentines, please make sure that everyone in the class gets one. Thank you so much for all of your support!

The Passion Museum was fantastic and was enjoyed by students, parents, and teachers! We just wanted to say thank you for all the continued support!

Please feel free to contact us at anytime. The best way to reach us is through email. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response.

Ms. Fiorrito - Susanne_R_Fiorrito@mcpsmd.org

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Important Reminders and Information

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Reminders

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- Be sure to check your child's backpack every night for homework and notices. Set aside time to sit with your child to go through the take home folder.
- Reading and math homework is sent home Monday and should be returned on Friday.
- Please mark all clothing with your child's first and last names —particularly jackets, sweaters and lunchboxes.
- Remember to send back the signed report card envelope to your child's teacher.
- You are welcome to check over your child's homework and help them as needed, but it is important to let your teacher know that your child needed your help. If homework is taking your child too much time to complete, please contact his or her teacher. We will work with your child on that particular concept.
- Please check to make sure your child has all of their needed school supplies. Many students are running low on glue sticks, pencils and erasers.



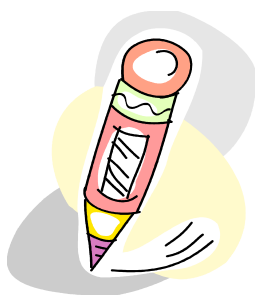
Essential Questions:

How are folktales around the world the same?

How do the same folktales differ from one country to another?

How does knowing the characteristics of a genre help me understand what I read?

How does my purpose for reading determine what is important as I read?



Reading

In reading we will begin studying folktales. Students will learn the characteristics of folktales such as they are passed down by word of mouth, there is a single character who dominates the action, and good prevails over evil. They will also learn that folktales may contain magic, things happening in threes, repetition, and trickery. We will also compare folktales from different countries in order to learn how folktales differ from country to country.

Students will also learn about the characteristics of biographies and the type of information that biographies contain. Students will learn that many biographies contain information about the person's birth, childhood, education, family life, occupation, accomplishments, contributions and death.

In addition, the students have been learning how to conduct literature circles in whole group and small groups. We are learning the roles of each student in the group to have critical, meaningful discussions of literature and information read.

Students will also begin to practice test taking skills for TerraNova 2, a national standardized test, that will be taken in April. The purpose of the test is to evaluate concepts, processes, and skills taught to second grade students nationwide. The multiple choice test covers Reading/Language Arts, Math, and Math Computation. (In March we will be practicing each area two times a week in order to prepare for this very important test.)

Writing

Second grade authors will begin to work on writing to persuade. Students will attempt to convince others to think the way they do through writing. Students will be required to give reasons why others should agree with their opinion. They will write letters to persuade someone of their opinion. As the students work on persuading others, they will answer the following questions:

- How do I convince someone to think, act or feel about something the way I do?
- What format or organizational plan can I use to write a strong persuasive piece?
- How can I use the form and structure of the friendly letter to share my ideas with others?
- What is my purpose in writing this letter?
- How can I make my writing clear and interesting for my reader?
- How can I use checklists and feedback from others to improve my writing?
- What resources can I use to edit my work?

Science

We are completing our first science unit, Balancing and Weighing. Students have been experimenting with the relationship of weight and balance, and the basic steps of the scientific process.

