



# The Second Grade Scoop!!!!

March 2011

**BANNOCKBURN ES  
6520 DALROY LANE  
BETHESDA, MD 20817  
301-320-6555**



## Important

### Upcoming

#### Dates:

#### March 7th

Interims sent home

#### March 21st-22nd

RAVEN testing

#### March 25th

Science Day

#### March 30th

Quarter 3 ends

#### March 31st

No school for students—professional day

Dear Parents,

We are so happy to be rid of snow! Hopefully March does go out like a lamb! Be on the lookout near the end of the month for a new project.

Students will begin to practice test taking skills twice a week for Terra Nova 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. During the month of March we will be practicing each area two times a week in order to prepare for this very important test.

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

Ms. Fioritto - [Susanne\\_R\\_Fioritto@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susanne_R_Fioritto@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Griffin-Bailey - [Leah\\_M\\_Bailey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Leah_M_Bailey@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Gugerty - [Francine\\_A\\_Gugerty@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Francine_A_Gugerty@mcpsmd.org)

## Important Reminders and Information

### Inside this issue:

Reminders

1

Reading

2

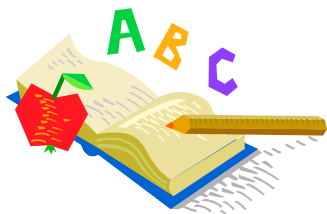
Writing

2

Social Studies

2

- Please be sure to notify your child's teacher if you are unable to keep your volunteer schedule.
- 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 interims 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 biographies and folktales help me understand what I read?*

*How does my purpose for reading determine what is important as I read biographies and folktales?*

*What strategies do good readers use to understand informational text?*



### **Essential Questions:**

*How do people make economic decisions?*

*What influences the economic decisions that we make?*

*How do economic decisions affect individuals and groups?*

*How does specialization affect individuals and groups?*

## **Reading**

In reading, students are continuing to learn about tall tales, folktales, and begin learning about biographies. 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. We will compare folktales from different countries in order to learn how folktales differ from country to country. Students will restate basic plots of folktales, and analyze folktales through their story elements. We will also distinguish that a tall tale is a special folktale usually based on a real person and has exaggerations of their characteristics. Students will also begin to study biographies. They will learn about the characteristics of biographies and the type of information that biographies contain, such as information about the person's birth, childhood, education, family life, occupation, accomplishments, contributions and death. Students will locate and restate important information in a biography. The students will find cause and effect in people's lives that influenced their accomplishments. In addition, the students will continue to learn how to conduct literature circles in small groups. We are learning the roles of each student in the group to have critical, meaningful discussions of literature and information read.

## **Writing**

Second grade authors are continuing to work on writing to persuade for the rest of the third quarter. Students will use reasons and evidence to convince others to think the way they do through writing. Students will write multiple letters to a variety of audiences. Students will compose letters that persuade others to get or do something for them and agree with their point of view. 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?

## **Social Studies**

In social studies we will begin our economics unit, Making Important Decisions. The major knowledge, skills, and concepts will be:

- The role of human, capital, and natural resources in the production of goods and services.
- The interrelationship between consumers and producers.
- The role of specialization in an economic system.
- Methods for economic decision making.
- Why economic choices have to be made.
- The cost, benefits, and consequences of personal spending and saving choices.
- The relationship between public goods and services, government, and taxes.
- Location of places around the world and how transportation enables trade.