



The Second Grade Scoop!!!!

October 2010

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Important Upcoming Dates:

- 10/11/10 ~ Columbus Day/ Open House 9:30am-12pm
- 10/15/10 ~ No school— MSTA Convention
- 10/27/10 ~ Principal's Coffee 9:30am Media Center
- 10/28/10 ~ Field Trip to Australian Embassy
- 10/29/10 ~ First marking period ends/Halloween Party Halloween Parade 2pm
- 11/1/10~ Professional Day— No school for students
- 11/2/10-General Election Day-No School

Stupendous Second Grade

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Fall! Can you believe we have already completed the first month of school? Your child continues to learn the classroom routines and we are continually reviewing the rules and expectations of the classroom and school. Be on the lookout for our next reading project coming soon called "Vote for Books".

We are having our Halloween parties in our classrooms on October 29th . Please contact the room parents' party planner if you are interested in volunteering. Remember to send your child to school in regular clothes. If they want to dress up for the parade and party, please send their costume in a bag. The parade will be at 2pm.

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. For matters concerning immediate attention, please call us at the school.

Have a great October!

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Important Reminders and Information

- Please understand that due to a variety of circumstances, including teacher absences, teachers may not receive your communication by email in a timely manner. Therefore all information pertaining to your child's change of dismissal plans such play dates, after school activities, doctor's appointment, etc, MUST come in to school in the form of a note signed and dated by you that morning.
- Please sign up for November conferences with your child's teacher if you have not yet done so.
- We appreciate all of our volunteers! Thank you for all of your hard work. If you can not make a volunteer time you were scheduled for, please let the teacher or the office know.
- Be sure to check your child's back-pack every night for homework and notices.
- Homework for math, reading and spelling is handed out on Monday. Please contact your child's teacher if your child is having difficulty completing homework in the allotted timeframe. Although homework is not graded, it is expected to be handed in on time on Fridays.
- Please mark all clothing with your child's first and last names —particularly jackets, sweaters and lunchboxes.

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Essential Questions:

- What before, during and after reading strategies can I use to help me understand what I read?
- What strategies can I use to help me when I read?
- How do I decide what I will read?
- What kind of information can I gain from reading?

Reading

We have completed our required assessments and have begun reading groups. We will continue to work on strengthening our before, during, and after reading strategies. With fiction texts, we will be deepening our understanding of story structure by identifying character traits, identifying important events to describe plot and by using details when describing setting, problem and solution.

With non-fiction texts, we will continue learning about and using text features and what we can learn from them. We will identify the different uses of graphic features, organizational features, and informational features.

When reading with your child, have him or her tell you about some of the strategies he/she used while reading:

Before reading: determine a purpose for reading, select a text to meet the purpose, preview the text, think about what you know about the subject, make predictions based on background knowledge.

During reading: stop and think about what you have read so far, ask your self if the reading makes sense, stop and use strategies to fix what is not making sense.

After reading: review your purpose for reading and check to see if you achieved your purpose, check to think about what you remember from what you have read, revisit text to think about the story or what you have learned, revisit the text to clarify your understanding, respond to your reading through discussion and/or writing.



Writing

During writing, we will continue to work on writing personal narratives. We will focus on using the writing process to create stories that are clear and interesting to the reader. The steps of the process we will follow are:

Pre-writing (brainstorming), drafting, revising, editing, publishing.

We will be supporting the students in learning how to begin to edit and revise independently and with a partner before conferencing with an adult.

While the authors go through the writing process to write about a small moment in their lives, they will ask themselves the following questions in order to make their writing their best:

What is my reason for composing this writing?

How can I make my writing clear for my reader?

What steps do I follow to produce the best writing piece that I can?

How does rehearsal with a partner help me generate ideas for writing topics?

Science

We are very excited to be studying our caterpillars. We have been predicating, observing, and recording our observations. We are watching the life cycle of a butterfly in real time! After observing, we will release our butterflies into the wild.

Social Studies

We will begin to discuss what a democracy is, how voting occurs, and what qualities make up good leaders. We will also talk about what it means to be a good citizen.

