

# 2nd Grade News

February 6, 2012

## Reading

In Reading, students have been working on how characters respond to challenges as well as using text and illustrations to determine a character's point of view. Over the next couple of weeks we will be working on the asking and answering thick and thin questions. Please enforce this concept with your child as you discuss the books that they are reading at home. Thin questions often begin with the words: when, where, and who and answers are usually located in the text, are short and specific (a number, a word, yes or no). Thick questions help readers think about big ideas or concepts and often begin with: why, what, and how. Answers to thick questions are often more than one sentence because they require an explanation and the reader must think about information in the text and their background knowledge to make an inference. Students will also see how language has changed over time and use context clues to determine meaning of words through William and Mary lessons.

## Math

In Math, we are continuing our study of measurement. We have been using both centimeters and inches to measure the length of lines and objects, and will begin a discussion of distinguishing between the two when choosing appropriate units of measurement. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be shifting our focus to estimation and measurement. As always, please continue to encourage your student to explain his or her strategies when completing math homework!

## Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are discussing how transportation and technology have contributed to communication between people. Additionally, we have been comparing the transportation and technology of the past to that of the present.

## Science

In science the students are observing change over time by describing the properties of the moon and changes of a seed. They will also explore and describe visible constellations.

## Writing

As the third quarter begins, we have shifted our focus to opinion writing. Students are currently working on an opinion piece in which they have to defend their point of view on a topic by using facts. One topic students will defend is if they feel that animals should be kept in zoos.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**Valentine's Day:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, parties begin at 1:45. Please contact your class' Valentine's Day Party parent with any questions about volunteering.

Be on the look-out for more information on an up-coming in-school field trip!

Please encourage your child to keep a "backpack book" in their backpack for reading during line-up in the morning!