

# Second Grade News

Cloverly Elementary School  
Leading the Way to Excellence!

October 2011

We have had a wonderful first month of school! Everyone seems to be adjusting well to second grade. We are even getting used to having recess before lunch and are enjoying the new curriculum. We are looking forward to another great month in 2nd grade!

## Reading

We have spent a lot of time reading literary (fiction) books and discussing characters, story elements, and point-of-view. Over the next two months we will shift our focus to informational (nonfiction) books. Your children will be exploring text features, asking and answering questions, making real-life connections and determining the main idea. We will be spending a lot of time on vocabulary development by finding the meaning of words using context clues and by using the glossary and other print and digital resources.

Reading assessments have been completed and some students have moved to another class/group to best match their skills to instruction. Remember, reading groups are flexible and can change throughout the year as your child grows as a reader. During small group instruction, we will continue to focus on using strategies to decode words we don't know, vocabulary, text features, and story elements. However, a big focus in 2nd grade is written comprehension. Your children need to be able to explain their thinking in words. Please help support your child in reading at home every night. Your child will start bring books home to read each night. These need to be read by your child and returned in the bag for the following day. The book will match your child's current instructional reading level. Thanks for your support!

Some dates to remember are:

- October Parent Volunteers begin.
- Oct. 5: Academic Night 7 p.m.
- Oct. 10: Open House 9:30 am
- Oct. 21: No School
- Oct. 28h Halloween Parade and Parties (parade begins at 1:30)
- Oct. 31: No School
- Nov. 10, 11: Early Release-Parent Conferences
- Nov. 18: Field Trip to Strathmore
- Nov. 23: Early Release
- Nov. 24, 25: No School

## Writing



We just finished taking a personal narrative through all of the steps of the writing process (prewriting, rough draft, revising, editing, and

publishing). We will now shift our writing to informational, or nonfiction, writing. Your children will be working on writing that incorporates health by discovering and explaining how we can make healthy decisions on a daily basis. At the end of the quarter, we will start using our opinion in our writing to help convince others to see and understand our point-of-view. We will also continue to focus on using correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Encourage your child to use their best handwriting on homework!



## Math

This quarter, math is all about numbers! Your children are taking numbers apart, rearranging the value of digits, and skip counting forward and backward by 10 and 100. We are continuing to show what we know and have learned in a variety of ways. Ask your child to explain homework problems he or she has solved to help build and show understanding. After finishing place value, we will start analyzing categorical data. We will be looking specifically at picture and bar graphs. We will kick off second quarter by adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers within 100 using many different strategies.

Math facts, math facts, and more math facts!!! Please practice math facts with your child at home. Your children should be able to mentally add and subtract their math facts up to 20. This will help them as we move into more complex skills and concept areas.

## Social Studies

We are continuing to learn about democratic skills and attitudes. Your children are learning that they have the responsibility to make choices that will impact their community in a positive way. We have especially been focusing on safety and health. We have acted out many scenarios that show how our choices affect others in negative and positive ways.

During the second quarter, we will begin learning about the geography of our world. Your child will learn about the different continents, oceans, poles, and countries, and discover how human needs are met in different parts of the world.

## Science and Engineering

Science has been an exciting time in second grade as we have been learning about the different properties of the earth and have been participating in inquiry-based experiments. We will start investigating and describing the Earth's surface and natural features of continents, the environment in Maryland, and the ocean floor. In the second quarter, we will begin classifying objects based on observable properties and discern between the different parts of objects. We will explore these concepts through hands-on investigations, observations, and explanations.



## **Volunteers**

We are excited that so many parents will be volunteering to help out in our classrooms. Some days you may be asked to photocopy, help make a bulletin board, help inside the classroom, or work with individual students. When working with students, we ask that you respect the students and do not share information about individual children beyond the classroom setting. Your child's teacher will send out a volunteer schedule soon.



## **Don't forget:**

It is very important that we have your support in helping your child master the concepts taught in reading and math. Please review with your child the assignments / homework that are sent home. Sign the parent communication box and let us know if you have any questions.

Additionally, please check your child's **LEARNING SKILLS** each night. They will evaluate themselves each day, and their teacher will do a final evaluation of behavior and learning skills at the end of the week. Please sign the learning skills paper at the end of the week. It will be checked by your child's teacher on Monday. This will help us become partners in your child's learning success.

Set high expectations for your child. Make it clear that school should be his or her first priority. Encourage your child to persevere when things are tough. We are using the motto, "Work hard, get smart!"

**We appreciate all of your support! Happy October and November!**

