



Glen Haven Elementary School

Second Grade Newsletter

December 2011

Happy Holidays! The second grade team can hardly believe that 2011 is coming to an end. We hope that you enjoyed some rest and relaxation with family and friends during Thanksgiving. We are geared up and ready to learn as much as we can. Though it sounds far away, April, our testing month, is in the near future. We will need your support to help us prepare our children for the upcoming standardized test. Before we get to the springtime however, we still need to make it through the winter. Please make sure any clothes you send in with your child are labeled so if they are lost, they can be returned.

Reading and Writing

This month we will focus on reading for literary experience. We will begin with reading fables and determining a moral or lesson in the story. Also, we will be reading folktales from different cultures. Additionally, we will read non-fiction texts and identify the main idea and text features of those texts. We will focus on how to answer a BCR (Brief Constructed Responses) using different strategies and a lot of practice! Each BCR is scored using a rubric. A rubric is a scoring key which ranges from a "3," which is the top score, to a "1." Our goal is to have students earning a "3" on their responses. Remind your child of the three steps for earning a "3" Answer Explain and Example. This skill and practice prepares our students for third grade.

Science and Social Studies

During our social studies unit, we will focus on traditions and customs of various cultures. This time of year we have many holidays that allow us to learn about our culture and history. We will learn about the first Thanksgiving and different Native American tribes. Specifically, we will focus on the Wampanoags and Pilgrims. We are continuing to learn about the geography of our country including, some neat facts about physical features that can be found in our country. Did you know the mountains in the Appalachian Mountain range are rounded at the top because they are an older set of mountains? On the other hand, the Rocky Mountains continue to be sharp and pointy at the top because they are "new"! Take a look at a world map and ask your child to identify the continents and oceans!

Our science unit continues to explore classifying objects and understanding "part-to-whole" relationships. As scientists, we are always observing and asking questions. We will continue to learn ways to "go green". In addition to planting our butterfly garden, each class has chosen "3 Green Things" to do each day to save energy. Turning off lights, opening blinds, shutting down computers, and recycling are just some ideas we use at school. Ask your child to choose one way to "go green" at home!



Math

This month we will focus on adding and subtracting strategies. Students will be taught and expected to show mastery of different ways to solve problems. Some of the ways include: modeling (using tens and ones blocks), estimating, and counting on or back. Since we will be adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numerals, regrouping will be part of our focus. Students will also be solving word problems with addition and subtraction. Knowing the vocabulary of word problems will help the students be able to solve them. For example, when key words such as, *in all*, *altogether*, and *sum*, are used in a word problem, we need to use the addition operation. The subtraction operation includes words and phrases such as, *what is the difference* and *how many more*.

Terra Nova 2 (TN2) - April 2011

All second graders take the TN2. The TN2 is a standardized test that is given across the nation, and compares the students' skills.

Reading/Language Arts Skills on the TN2

- Reading short stories with comprehension (inferring)
- Grammar - contractions, compound words, punctuation, prefixes, suffixes, pronouns
- Phonics - Letter sounds
- Parts of a letter and addressing an envelope
- Synonyms - Words that are the same
- Antonyms - Words that are opposite

Schedule of Events

- ☺ December 9 Interims Mailed
- ☺ December 15 Winter Concert 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- ☺ December 23 Last day of classes before Winter Break
- ☺ December 26 January 2, 2012 Winter Break - No School!
- ☺ January 3, 2012 Classes resume

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at school. The second grade team looks forward to a positive and exciting school year!

Andrea_M_Caruso@mcpsmd.org
Allison_M_Goldman@mcpsmd.org
Rhonda_B_Sherrod@mcpsmd.org
Heather_M_Williams@mcpsmd.org
April_R_Wright@mcpsmd.org
Yanquoi_K_Subah@mcpsmd.org
Carmela_D_Somarriba@mcpsmd.org
Fannie_D_Dyson@mcpsmd.org