



Glen Haven Elementary School

Second Grade Newsletter

January 2012

Welcome Back!

Happy New Year! The second grade team can hardly believe that 2012 has arrived. We hope that you enjoyed some rest and relaxation with family and friends during the last few weeks. 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 state tests in the spring. But before we get to the springtime, we still need to make it through the winter. Please make sure any clothes you send in with your child are labeled, so that we can return the clothes if they are lost.

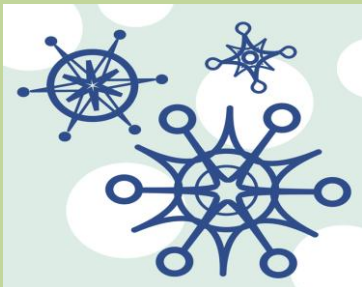
Reading and Writing

This month we will continue to focus on reading for literary experience. We will enjoy more fables and folktales to identify lessons and morals learned from the text. Additionally, we will be reading non-fiction texts. We will focus on how to answer BCRs (Brief Constructed Responses) using different strategies and a lot of practice! Our goal is to have students earning a 3 on their responses. Remind your children of the three steps for earning a 3. Answer, explain and example are key words for earning a 3. This skill is preparing our students for third grade.

Science and Social Studies

During our social studies unit, we have learned a lot about our history; different cultures and traditions. We learned about the first Thanksgiving and several Native American tribes. As an extension to learning about cultural customs, we will focus on learning about basic human wants and needs. We will identify the difference between needs and wants and how they are met.

During our science unit, we will continue the theme of analysis, a critical thinking skill. Analysis is taking a whole and breaking it into smaller parts. We will observe whole objects and examine the smaller, minute details that make-up the object. Conversely, we will create and build objects using smaller parts to create the whole. We will use a variety of materials. This will include our focus for being a "green school" by using recycled materials.



Math

This month we will continue to focus on adding and subtracting strategies. Students will be taught and expected to show mastery of different ways to solve word and computation problems. Some of the ways include: modeling (using tens and ones blocks), navigating through a hundred board, and using a number line. Since we will be adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numerals, regrouping will be part of our focus. Please note that the term "regrouping" which many of us are familiar with, has been changed. In class, we refer to the concept as composing or decomposing. Composing is when an addition problem requires you to make a new 10. Decomposing is when you have a subtraction problem which requires you to "borrow or regroup" a 10 and break it into smaller parts.

Also, writing story problems to reflect an operation of a problem will be taught as well. For example, when key words such as "*in all, altogether, and sum*" are used, those words let us know we need to use the addition operation. The subtraction operation includes words and phrases such as, *What's the difference? and How many more?* These are just some tips to help you help your child at home.

Additionally, we will be learning about money! We will identify the value of coins and bills, as well as solve word problems which include money. To integrate skip counting and money skills, you can ask your child to count by 5's (using nickels) and count by 10's (using dimes).

Schedule of Events

- ☺ January 2 – MCPS Holiday, No School
- ☺ January 3 – Classes Resume
- ☺ January 4 - Data Notebooks Sent Home
- ☺ January 9-13 – Reading Week at Glen Haven
- ☺ January 12- Family Reading Night 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- ☺ January 13 – Drama Club Carnival 4:00-9:00 p.m.
- ☺ January 16- No School- Martin Luther King Day
- ☺ January 19 – Parent Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- ☺ January 20 - Second Marking Period Ends
- ☺ January 23 - No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- ☺ January 24- Class Pictures

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!

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