



Glen Haven Elementary School

Second Grade Newsletter

November 2011

November News and Updates

Here is a big thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our McDonald's Night fundraiser on October 11. We are well on our way towards our fundraising goal!

We hope you enjoyed our first Parent Meeting and found it to be informative and fun. Thank you for your continued support!

Now that the weather is getting colder, please be aware that we will continue to have outdoor recess and dismissal until the temperature drops below 40 degrees. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather and that any outerwear is labeled with your child's name.

Quarter 2 changes the focus from collaboration and fluency to analysis and metacognition. Analysis is a critical thinking skill which involves breaking down a whole into parts that may not be immediately obvious. Metacognition is an academic success skill that involves knowing and being aware of one's own thinking and having the ability to monitor and evaluate one's own thinking.

Reading and Writing

For the second quarter, we will focus on reading informational and fiction texts. Throughout the quarter, one of the primary instructional skills will be to ask and answer questions about a text. You can practice by asking your child to generate and answer questions that begin with the words "Who," "What," "Where," "When," and "Why."

In November, we will review text features found in informational texts. We will examine table of contents, photographs, glossary and labels. Then, we will switch our focus to literary text and discuss folktales from different cultures.

In Writing, we will evaluate and describe details of art prints. We will continue to use the 6 + 1 traits as we write a descriptive paragraph about a specific place. We will focus on word choice, sentence fluency, and organization.



Math

This month in Math we will solve addition and subtraction word problems. Additionally we will identify numerals that are odd or even, solve problems with or without regrouping and continue to use mental math strategies to help us with our basic math facts.

A fantastic way to help your child is to continue reviewing their homework with them. Remember to have your child practice their basic facts! **Thank you** for continuing to do so!

Science and Social Studies

In Science, we will focus on classifying objects including looking at what they have in common and what is different. We will also discuss how different parts come together to make a whole and how you can break down a whole object and look at the parts that came together to make the whole. You can help us at home by classifying objects in your home and looking at smaller pieces that came together to make something for example, the pieces of a bicycle.

In Social Studies, we will focus on the parts of a map, using a map, and creating maps. We will classify geographic characteristics by physical or human-made features. We will discuss cultures and traditions of groups including the Wampanoags and Pilgrims. You can help us at home by looking at and creating maps with your child. In addition, you can discuss different traditions that your family has and where those traditions came from.

Thank you for your continued support!

Schedule of Events

- November 10 Half Day: dismissal at 1 p.m., Parent Conferences
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- November 14 Awards Assembly
 - Grades 1 and 2: 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
- November 13-19 Reading Week
- November 14 Field Trip to Strathmore Music Hall
- November 18 Picture Retakes
- November 23 Half Day: dismissal at 1 p.m.
- November 24 No School
- November 25 No School

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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