

Glen Haven Elementary School

Second Grade Newsletter

October 2011



Great First Quarter!

We are midway through the first quarter. The time has gone by very quickly. We are well on our way to a fantastic school year. The students are getting settled and they are learning new and exciting things.

The second grade team enjoyed meeting many of you at our Back to School Night on September 8, 2011. We continue to encourage you to become an active part of your child's education. We will be having our first Parent Workshop on October 20, 2011, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Media center. The focus of this workshop will be Math. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to gain a greater understanding of Curriculum 2.0 and what the students are doing in the classroom. We will have our annual Halloween celebration on October 28, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. We encourage you to attend this festive celebration.

Reading and Writing

Throughout the first quarter, we have been focusing on the creative thinking skill of fluency. This means the students will generate multiple responses to a problem or an idea. The academic success skill is collaboration which supports the students with working effectively and respectfully to reach a group goal.

During the second half of the first quarter, we will focus on reading to be informed and determining the main idea of a text. Informational text consists of many forms that include newspaper and magazine articles, content area texts, trade books, and letters. Comprehension strategies for reading to be informed include setting a purpose for reading, linking background knowledge to new information, asking questions to clarify, analyze, and/or answer, determining important information, and formulating a big idea to retell important information from the text. This will be integrated with other subjects through the use of Science and Social Studies texts.

We will continue our work on BCRs (Brief Constructed Response) in writing. During the first quarter, the students are introduced to what writers do, how writers organize their work, and writers' craft techniques. We will also focus on the editing process. Through this process, the students will have an opportunity to learn more about sentence structure and revising their work.



Math

This month in Math we will continue to focus on place value. Your child will continue to read and write numbers to 1000, and to express 2 and 3- digit numbers in several different ways. We will compare and order whole numbers using the greater than and less than symbols ($<$ $>$). We will work on our number sense by identifying missing numbers in a sequence to 1000 and identifying 10 more and 10 less than a number in 3 and 4-digit numbers. Children will be using hundreds charts to aid them in learning these concepts. The final portion of the quarter is data analysis. Students will learn different ways to gather and organize data.

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 October, we will focus on symbols of the United States such as the bald eagle, Statue of Liberty, and the Washington Monument and their importance to our country. We will discuss rules, laws, democracy, government, culture, and geography, as well as participating in a mock vote to gain an understanding of the voting process. This is a fun filled unit that allows the students to gain awareness of the society around them. You can help us at home by discussing the various rules in your home and community and the reasons for them.

In Science we will focus on describing the Earth's surface and atmosphere and the natural features of the ocean floor. In addition, we will describe the properties of air, pollution of air and the effects it has on us. We also will be planting flowers in our new butterfly garden on October 20 through the Green Kids program.

We look forward to seeing the growth that the students will make this quarter!

Schedule of Events

- October 4 PTA Meeting; 7:00 p.m.
- October 10 Columbus Day- Open House
- October 11 McDonald's Night Fundraiser; 5:00 p.m.
- October 20 Parent Workshop; 5:30 p.m.
- October 21 No School-MSTA Convention
- October 28 Halloween Parade and Celebration
- October 28 End of First Marking Period

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