

2ND GRADE NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

We are off and running to the 2011 – 2012 school year. Thanks to everyone who made it to Back-To-School Night and to Open House earlier this week. Thank you for all of the support as the students have become more comfortable with the new routines and expectations of 2nd grade.

Below is a list of upcoming important dates:

- **Thursday, Oct. 20 = October Birthday Club (2:30 pm)**
- Friday, Oct. 21 = No School
- **Friday, Oct. 28 = 1st Marking Period Ends**
- Friday, Oct. 28 = Halloween Party at 2:00. Please send a note soon if your child does not celebrate Halloween.
- **Monday, Oct. 31 = No School**
- Tuesday, Nov. 1 = 2nd Marking Period Ends
- **Thursday/Friday, Nov. 10-11 = Early Release Days for Parent Conferences**
- Monday, Nov. 21 = Woodlawn Manor Field Trip
- **Wednesday, Nov. 23 = Early Release Day**
- Thursday/Friday, Nov. 24-25 = No School for Thanksgiving



Agenda Book and Homework

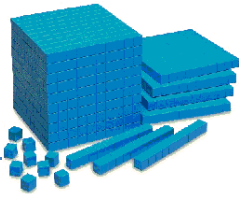
As we explained at Back-To-School Night, we would like you to sign the agenda book EACH night. This allows you to see your child's homework for the night and also check for any notes from the teacher. If you need to communicate with the teacher, a quick note in the agenda book is a good way. Now that we have reading groups going strong, books will be coming home regularly. It is important that your child read their reading group books each night. The students benefit from rereading the texts multiple times. They can practice reading with a normal speaking speed and also changing their voices as they read.

Science



What do you know about soil? We have a wealth of knowledge about what types of items create soil, the 3 types of soil, the 3 layers of soil, and the importance of soil. The field trip to **Croydon Creek Nature Center** was very exciting and hands-on. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who joined us! We are currently studying **the water cycle** and are learning the scientific words of **collection, evaporation, condensation, and precipitation**. Try this fun task at home: Have parent and child draw and label the water cycle individually. Then compare the two **scientific illustrations**. **Who do you think will have more details and specific words in their illustration?** We are also discussing how the sun and temperature play a very important role in the water cycle. **How does the sun and temperature affect the evaporation, condensation, and precipitation?**

Math



We are really becoming experts in our knowledge of place value! We have learned concepts that include drawing models of a number; writing numbers as words, numerals, and expanded notation; comparing different forms of numbers and expressions using $<$, $>$, $=$; using our place value knowledge to continue increasing/decreasing patterns of 1s, 10s, and 100s. We have also become proficient with the use of the 100s chart. **What are the patterns on the 100s chart? How can you use the 100s chart to help with addition and subtraction?** We will soon begin to draw picture graphs and bar graphs and use the data to solve problems.

Reading and Language Arts



In reading/language arts, our focus for the first few weeks was fiction texts. We focused on the **fiction story elements of setting, problem, solution, and especially characters**. Good readers will continually think about these four story elements as they read and can give a thorough retell of the story by remembering the important details for each element. We had some great discussions about two different versions of The Three Little Pigs. One version was from the pigs' point of view while the other was told from the wolf's point of view. **Which point of view do you think is correct?** We are transitioning into **informational text** in which we will examine the use of various **text features** and determine the **main idea** of paragraphs and sections of text. In writing we have worked on **personal narratives** where we wrote about events in our lives. We learned how to plan our writing, expand our ideas, and include temporal words and the five senses to make our stories more interesting. We will soon write **informative paragraphs** to show our factual knowledge about soil, the water cycle, and leaders. We will introduce the topic, include supportive facts, and end with a concluding sentence. We will also write **opinions** about various topics. We have also started our spelling program. This is a two week cycle with the patterns introduced in class the first week and then spelling words that come home and are tested the second week.

Social Studies



In social studies, we spent a good amount of time learning the rules of the classroom and understanding our jobs within the classroom. This has really paid off as the students are becoming more independent and are becoming better collaborators. **What are the classroom rules? Are you following the 3 guiding principles? How is your behavior in class? What are some of your jobs in your classroom? What is your mission statement? What makes you a good collaborator?** We will soon begin discussing how we can be responsible citizens in our community and classroom, as well as what makes a great leader.

Thank you for all of your support! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us!

The Second Grade Team

Mrs. Billig, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. Wainwright