



Dates to Remember:

October 7th: The Fun Run (Second grade classes will go at 9:45)

October 10th: Open House (We look forward to seeing you Monday morning.)

October 21st: No school for students

October 28th: Halloween Party

Reading The Reading Initiative groups have begun! Both teachers and students are having fun in the small groups!

Story Structure - How does knowing about the characters, setting, problem and solution help me understand the story? This is the question that has been the focus of our instruction. We will continue to work with this question in October and throughout the year. We have been identifying character traits, the setting in stories, and understanding the problem and solution in a story.

Let's be informed! In our small reading groups the students will be given instruction in reading expository pieces. In groups we will be discussing this question: **How can my background knowledge and experience help me learn new information from non-fiction text?**

Parent Tip: Read an informational article from a child's magazine with your child. Identify interesting facts. When reading a narrative piece, identify the characters' traits, the setting, and the problem/solution of the story.

Writing: Writing for Personal Experience

How can I make my writing clear for my reader? This is one of the questions in our writing program. The children have been writing pieces about personal experiences. They have received instruction on how to write a good beginning, middle, and ending to their piece of writing.

Parent Tip: With your child, write a story about one of his/her experiences. Identify the beginning, middle, and end.

Math

Pumpkin math is coming up on Wednesday, October 26th at 1:15. If you've volunteered, you will receive an instruction letter mid-October.

The instructional focus in math will be comparing numbers; greater than, less than, and equal to, ordering numbers before, after, or between, even and odd, patterns and problem solving, estimation. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction, and problem solving strategies.

The classes covering third grade objectives will continue to work on place value and will start working on graphing. Towards the end of October we will be introducing our unit on linear measurement.

Parent Tip: *Practice those basic facts!* Use the strategies; doubles, doubles plus one, add a zero, make a ten, count on, and facts for ten. Use the five minutes during short trips to review basic facts with your child.

Social Studies

The students have learned about the principles of a democracy. We will begin focussing on the map of the United States. Through activities the children will learn about human-made and physical features of our country.

Parent Tip: Discuss the difference between responsibilities and rules.

Science

We are continuing our first science unit, Life Cycle of the Butterfly. The students are in the process of watching the metamorphosis of the caterpillar to the chrysalis stage. They can't wait to see the butterflies emerge.

Parent Tip: Have your child explain the four stages of the butterfly's life cycle. Also ask them to identify the body parts of the caterpillar and the butterfly.

School Supplies: Ask your child what school supplies they might need to have restocked. Each child should have a supply of pencils, erasers, and glue sticks (all labeled) at school.

Donations: For various activities in the classroom the second grade teachers are hoping to replenish some of our supplies. These supplies help us do a variety of activities in the classroom. If you are able to send any of the items listed throughout the year it would be greatly appreciated.

Magazines (Boy's Life, Discovery Girl, Sports Illustrated for Kids, etc.)

Egg Cartons

Paper towel and toilet rolls

Miscellaneous craft supplies (pom poms, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, etc.)

Tissues

Hand Sanitizer

Please sign and return the bottom portion of the newsletter.

I have received the October Newsletter.

Child's Name

Parent's Signature