



October 2009



## Language Arts

We will complete the Unit “Being Me” in our Harcourt series. During October, we will begin the Unit entitled “Helping Hands.” These units discuss diversity, individuality as well as teamwork. The stories talk about feelings and working together. Some of the stories show friendship between characters and how to get along with one another.

The time you spend rereading the stories with your child is time well spent. Stories with important themes can be revisited and discussed over and over again as well as related to other topics. Reading aloud familiar stories develops fluency as does the reading aloud of poetry. The Reading Firecracker 400 club forms are due on the first of each month.

In writing, our focus has been on writing complete sentences with capitals and the correct punctuation. We also use Mountain Language to review and introduce grammar concepts. Dictation sentences are given each week along with the spelling test to assess these convention/mechanic skills.

In spelling, your child should be studying their weekly spelling list, the commonly misspelled words and the challenge words. Remember even those students on the alternate lists will be having the commonly misspelled words on their end of the week test.

## Everyday Math

The mathematics units we have covered in Everyday Math Unit 1 include the activities utilizing number sense. This included counting, comparing, and finding number patterns.

In October, we will practice addition and subtraction concepts and strategies. Mathematical terms we use are; sums, differences, turnaround facts, and related addition and subtraction facts. We talk about the strategies of “doubles” and “doubles plus 1”, as well as ways to make ten. Fact families will be introduced as well. Weekly quizzes and unit tests are given to assess the math goals. Your child should keep their reference book, (MRB), in his/her backpack for use at school and for extra assistance at home.

Mastery of math facts is very important in second grade. Weekly timed tests for the math facts will be given in order to track your student’s progress. Some suggestions for practice include; using flashcards or fact triangles (with facts to 20), creating math fact games using a deck of cards or dice, and using those snippets of time you find during the day, such as in the car, during commercials, eating breakfast, and waiting for appointments, to practice the math facts. Also, you can use addition and subtraction flash cards to hunt down all the doubles, doubles plus one, related addition and subtraction facts, as well as the fact families. Remember, practice makes perfect!

# Social Studies

In Social Studies we have looked at our community and the neighborhood we live in.

Our “Working World” will let us take a look at how our communities work and the jobs that are needed to make it run. We will discuss the difference between wants and needs.

We are utilizing the Time for Kids magazine to discuss current events

National Geographic magazine, which was purchased by the PTA, is also a great nonfiction resource to enhance our science and social studies units.



# Science

In Science, we are working on our Sink or Float Unit. A note explaining our final project will be sent home on October 13th. If you do not receive this note please let us know. Buoyancy and capacity are discussed in this unit, as well as the density of water.



# Tail End Information



- \* October 1– Reading Logs Due
- \* October 5– PTA Gift Wrap Ends
- \* October 7 – Walk to School Day
- \* October 7 - Market Day Pick-up
- \* October 12 - NO SCHOOL  
Columbus Day
- \* October 14 - Early Dismissal  
at 12:05 p.m.
- \* October 19-23 - Fall Book Fair and  
Red Ribbon Week
- \* October 20– Picture Retakes
- \* October 23 –End of First Quarter
- \* October 23– Sink the Boat  
Project Due
- \* October 30– Report Cards go home
- \* October 30 – PTA Fall Party 2:15
- \* November 4– Parent Teacher  
Conferences 4:30p.m.-8p.m.