



Second Grade Gazette



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LANGUAGE ARTS

The month of September carries us through our first twenty days of reading. We have focused on procedures to help make our classroom productive and reading strategies to help us think and become better readers.

Everyday students are immersed with literature. From teachers reading aloud a classic novel to students reading independently, students are surrounded by great pieces of text. Each time students are exposed to literature we hope that they are making connections from the text to their own lives. The book might remind them of something similar that happened to themselves or the story may remind them of another book they have read. When we make connections to what we read, comprehension is easier to achieve.

We will continue to make connections to literature here at school, but we now want to extend these connections at home to you. Reading homework is critical for increasing a child's reading skill. Fluency practice and talking about the story are all simple ways to help your child grow. We hope that our reading homework serves as one more way school and home can work together to make learning fun.

SCIENCE

This past month in Science, the students have been involved in the "Sink and Float" kit. The students have been introduced to the concept of buoyancy and the principles governing the behavior of boats. They have been working cooperatively in pairs and groups while experimenting with a variety of materials and designs. Students have tried to identify the variables affecting the loading capacities of floating vessels. As young scientists, they have used the scientific method. They are having many opportunities to ask questions, form a hypothesis, test their ideas, observe and record data, and come to conclusions.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **October 3rd and 4th** OLSAT Testing
- **October 6th** Classroom Parties
The theme is "2nd Grade Cruise" to complement our Sink and Float science unit.
- **October 9th** No school
- **October 18th** 12:00 Dismissal. No school in the afternoon.
- **October 20th** PICTURE DAY
- **October 21st** Market Day Pick-up
- **October 27th** Halloween Happening (More info. on the back.)
- **November 3rd** 1st quarter report cards go home.
- **November 8th, 9th, and 14th** Parent/Teacher Conferences



Social Studies

Now that we are almost done sinking and floating, we are headed back to dry land to study our country. We will learn about the 3 branches of government, the history of the Constitution, and our country's leaders, both past and present. We will also learn about symbols of America including the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. During this unit we will also work on sequencing events.

MATH

We are working our way through units 1 and 2 of our Everyday Mathematics program.

Counting by 2's, 5's and 10's is a **secure goal**. If your child is having difficulty, please continue to reinforce these number patterns. Making tallies and giving the total and finding equivalent names for numbers are also **secure goals**.

We will continue to work on **developing goals** throughout October. Basic addition and subtraction math facts, time, and money (bills and coins) are a part of our weekly activities. We are also working on basic addition and subtraction number stories. Sally has 5 pencils, Jan has 7 pencils. How many pencils in all? Sam had 14 pencils, he gave 3 to Bob. How many pencils did Sam have left? Don't forget to label the unit (pencils)!

Our *Otter Creek Mastering Math Facts* will be a frequent reminder to keep studying and memorizing those basic math facts! They have 1 minute to reach their goal and move to the next level. The incomplete sheets that are sent home should be used for practice and need not be returned.

The Computer Channel

All students experienced an orientation into the computer lab and had an opportunity to practice their keyboarding skills. By using the Type to Learn software, the students practice using Home Row keys and become acquainted with the keyboard. During their orientation they identified and learned appropriate use of physical components of a computer system, selected and applied menu commands and learned the functions of some of the tools.

Importance of Readable Text

By Patricia Cunningham

From *Classrooms that Work*

Having children read something in which they can recognize almost all the words is critical to their reading development. Experts agree that the child must be able to successfully and independently read at least 95% of the words in a story and have good comprehension.

If these percentages seem high to you, apply it to your own reading. Most books that adults read have about 400 words on a page. If you only know 90% of those words, you would have to stop and try to figure out 40 words. Even if you know 95% of the words, you would still have to stop and think about 20 words on every page.

When you think about this, it makes sense that children need lots of easy reading and repeated readings in order to become good and avid readers.

Halloween at McCarty

Thanks to our wonderful

PTA,

Halloween is celebrated on Friday,

October 27th from

6:00—8:30 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to show off your costumes. Please do not bring or wear your costumes to school. Save that special treat for the Halloween Happening.