



Second Grade Gazette



Dec. 2009

Volume 4

LANGUAGE ARTS

In December, second graders will have a special unit studying the writings of the famous author Jan Brett. Some titles from her collection include The Mitten, The Hat, and Berlioz the Bear. Check out some books by this author at the library to try to discover what special animal Jan Brett always puts in her books.



Students will continue to work on choosing appropriate books for reading time. To see growth in reading, students need to be reading books that expose them to only a few new words per page. This month have your child review choosing Good Fit Books using the IPICK with books at home or at the library. Remember, IPICK stand for I look at a book, P for Purpose, I for Interest, C for Comprehend, and K for Know most of the words.

During writing, students will be studying and writing their own Slice of Life. Throughout this unit, students will work on writing about a snapshot of their life using a photograph that holds special meaning to them. Remember to send in a photo for your child to use for this project!



Gingerbread House Project

The second grade students will be constructing gingerbread houses for a fun holiday project the week before winter break. Stay tuned for further information.

Progress Reports will be coming home on Friday, December 4th.

SCIENCE

This month in

science we will begin our adventures with mealworms! We will observe mealworms and their life cycles. Can a mealworm smell or hear? How does the mealworm grow and what does he become? What are the four stages in it's life cycle? We will attempt to find out the answers to these questions. We will use the scientific method by first making a hypothesis, then perform an experiment. Next we will observe our pet's reaction and finally record our results. Doesn't a pet mealworm sound exciting!?!

MATH

This month we will continue to practice 2 digit addition and subtraction. Remember that there is more than one way to find the solution. Stretch your child's problem solving skills and ask him/her to come up with two or even three ways to solve the same problem. Remember to review the partial sums algorithm.

December will be the month for geometry! We will work on developing classification skills through hands-on activities where students will observe similarities and differences among various shapes. They will also be exploring spatial relationships.

Some new terms that you will be hearing this month are points, line segments and symmetry.

Here are some Winter Break activities:

- ↗ Sort something (presents, candies, cookies, cards, bows, etc.)
- ↗ Estimate what time you will wake up the next morning (don't set your alarm!)
- ↗ Measure how much snow is on the ground with your ruler.
- ↗ Keep a graph of daily temperatures.
- ↗ Keep a tally of how many visitors came to your house. Don't forget your friends, too!

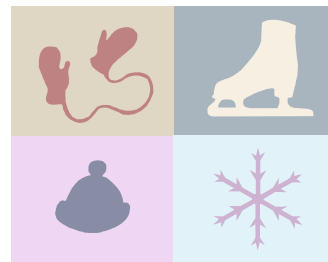
Most of all relax and have fun!

Home! You're Where It's Warm Inside

By: Jack Prelutsky

Home! You are a special place,
You're where I wake and wash my face,
Brush my teeth and comb my hair,
Change my socks and underwear,
Clean my ears and blow my nose,
Try on all my parents clothes.

Home! You're where it's warm inside,
Where my tears are gently dried,
Where I'm comforted and fed,
Where I'm forced to go to bed,
Where there's always love to spare,
Home! I'm glad that you are there.



Snowflakes Falling Down

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Snowflakes, snowflakes, falling down,
All around on the ground.
Get the sleds and climb so high,
Down we'll go, slippety slide.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, falling down,
All around without a sound.

Winter Break

December 19th - January 3rd