



Second Grade Gazette



September, 2009

Volume 1 Issue 1

LANGUAGE ARTS

The month of September carries us through our first twenty days of reading. We focus on procedures to help make our classroom productive and reading strategies to help us think and become better readers. During this time you may hear your student discussing the Daily 5 or building stamina for reading. Ask your child what this means. They should be excited to tell you.

Everyday students are immersed in 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

We will be focusing on the Scientific Method of discovery while doing some experimenting. Stating a purpose, creating a hypothesis, completing experiments, analyzing results, and drawing conclusions will all be a part of our journey. Students will also have the exciting opportunity to try their hand at boat construction as we embark on our Sink and Float Unit. Stay tuned to your child's backpack for more information.

Mark Your Calendar!

September 7th —No School for Labor Day

September 18th—No School for

Building Articulation Day

September 10th—CURRICULUM

NIGHT!!!

6:30-Support Staff presentations

7:00-8:00-Classroom presentations

**Please make arrangements to
be there.**

This is an important night.

September 25th—McCarty Stampede

during school.

September 30th—Picture Day

Keep collecting and bringing in Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels and Pop Tabs. All these items equal money for the school.

Social Studies



We are all part of many different groups and communities. In Social Studies, we have been exploring these groups, communities, and how to be a positive citizen of all these communities.

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, 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.

Warm Weather Warning!!!!

Just a quick reminder that it does get rather warm in the school.

Please dress appropriately and feel free to bring a water bottle.



Importance of Readable Text

By Patricia Cunningham

From *Classrooms that Work*

Having children read something in which they can recognize 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.

Supply Reminder—Please be sure your child has brought in all the requested supplies by now. Don't forget those headphones and art smock!

Mustang Stampede Coming Soon!

"What's this?" you ask. Our fall fund raiser. This year, like last we won't sell gift wrap and other trinkets. Instead, the students will collect donations and have some fun while walking in a McCarty WALKATHON. All donations will go to the PTA to support the wonderful programs they provide for our students. Watch backpacks for more information coming home soon.

