



Second Grade Gazette



Winter 2007

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LANGUAGE ARTS

Spring has arrived early in second grade. We are busy reading about plants. Reading non-fiction text requires students to use many different skills. Understanding how to read diagrams, finding the main idea and determining the important facts from a text are skills that the students will be practicing. Students are learning how to use comprehension strategies so they can read to learn about new topics. When reading fiction at home with your child have them explain what they think is happening in the story. Have them find the clues or proof in the story to support their thoughts. Having these types of discussions are very valuable and are important to your child's progress in reading.



Most second grade students have increased their fluency rates according to the CBM assessment. However due to the higher expectation, their score according to national scores may have dropped. Please continue to work with your child at home by reading the homework several times. We, too will continue to work on this important skill.

By the way, don't forget to record the minutes you read at home to earn the free Great America ticket. Wow! Two rewards, the ticket and improved reading performance.

Important Dates to Remember

Science



In science this month we are studying the life cycle of plants. Students are classifying seeds, planting seeds, identifying different methods of seed travel, and learning the ways we use plants in our every day lives. They are also learning about the purpose of roots, stems, and leaves. Students will learn about the function of a flower. We are using hands-on activities to study plant life. Students will use such scientific skills as observing, recording, classifying, inferring, experimenting, and predicting.

*Jump Rope for Heart

Mr. Rodriguez is really looking forward to seeing lots of second graders after school on **January 25th!**

*Second Grade Program

Come enjoy our second graders singing about the lives of penguins on **February 15th.**

*No School — February 16th.

*No School — We will be celebrating our presidents on **February 19th.**

*Open House — February 22nd from 6:30-8:00

We have already begun cleaning and decorating our rooms in preparation for our OPEN HOUSE.

*2nd Grade Penguin Party

The second graders are going to have a great time doing the "Penguin Shuffle" on February 23rd from 2:00-3:00.

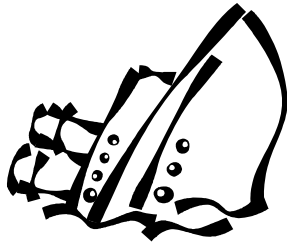
*No School — March 2nd.

*Spring Break — March 26th-March 30th.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Next month in social studies we will distinguish between needs and wants. Students will identify basic human needs and recognize the different ways people satisfy their needs and wants. One activity that will help students learn this concept will be “the sinking cruise ship” activity. When given certain items, students will decide which items they will need to bring with them in order to survive.

Students will also learn how people earn, save, and spend money. They will need to decide how to spend the money that they’ve earned.



MATH

Problem solving will continue to be a big part of our math work. The three parts of our problem solving will be solving number stories, using comparison diagrams and writing the number models. Continue to review both the addition and subtraction parts of the fact families using your fact triangle cards, since either operation may help to find a diagram solution.

We have just begun the trade first algorithm for subtraction. Our classrooms will use longs and cubes to demonstrate this process. Please review your Home Links Family Letter with the unit explanation of this concept.

We also will begin to solve various multiplication and division problems by using diagrams and array models.

Thank you for being faithful with reviewing the Home Links and practicing math facts with your children.

Math can be fun!

The Book Nook

ATTEMPTING UNKNOWN WORDS

Picture Clues

Ask your child, “What do you see in the picture that may help you?” Attending to details in the picture may support your child’s attempts at unknown words. In addition to illustrations, encourage your child to use maps, photographs, charts, and diagrams to support their reading. All readers should interact with illustrations as well as the print.

Context Clues

Encourage your child to reread the words around the unknown word. The words or sentences before or after the unknown word may provide help.

Use Prior Knowledge

Another effective reading strategy is activating prior knowledge. Children need to connect what they read to what they already know. Activating prior knowledge supports the reader’s attempts at difficult words because they can see if the difficult word is related to a topic they already know something about. Ask your child, “What do you already know about this subject? Could this unknown word be a word on this topic? Think about the context of what you are reading. What would make sense?”

Written by Katie DeSotell

Just a Note:

As we enter the second half of the school year, some students are missing basic art supplies which should be in their desks. Please ask your child if they are well prepared with adequate crayons, scissors, pencils and other necessary supplies.

