



Second Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders

- December 5th: PTA Meeting at 6:00
- December 13th: Winter Concert at 4:30
- December 25th-January 1st, 2024: School Closed for Winter Recess

Phonics

This month we will be starting our next unit which focuses on words that contain long vowels (a, e, i, o, u), open syllables, vowel team syllables, and consonant + le syllables.

Students will learn about contractions, inflectional endings (change y to i), silent letters (kn, wr, gn, mb), suffixes (-y, -ly), compound words, prefixes (un-, re-, dis-), and homophones.

Leader in Me

This month students will be learning about the third habit: Put First Things First. This habit teaches students to work first, then play. An example of this would be: I do the things that I have to do before I do the things that I want to do. Students will read the book: "The Little Red Fort" by Brenda Maier.

Reading Workshop

This month we will be continuing our reading unit called *Becoming Experts*. This unit focuses on reading nonfiction. In this unit, students will navigate through their books by not only studying, noticing details, and questioning texts but also how to read a nonfiction text with a voice that matches the content. Students will also learn some new word solving strategies that will develop student's vocabulary usage and understanding. Students will end the unit by choosing a topic and comparing and contrasting information inside and across texts.

Writers Workshop

This month in writing we will be continuing our unit called *How to Guide for Nonfiction Writing*. This unit welcomes second graders into the world of nonfiction writing by encouraging students to write lots of little nonfiction books. Students will learn that they can take anything they know a lot about and write a book that teaches their reader about the topic. In this unit students learn to: write about areas of expertise, read mentor texts to study writers' craft in nonfiction, elaborate, write for readers anticipating their questions and hooking their interest, and experiment with different kinds of nonfiction writing.

Math

We will continue working on Module 3 in Math. This module focuses on place value, counting, and comparison of numbers to 1,000. Along with changing 10 ones for 1 ten, students will also change 10 tens for 1 hundred. This leads to the use of counting strategies to solve word problems. Students will also represent three-digit numbers in unit, standard, expanded, and word forms. This module's instruction includes a great deal of counting: by ones, tens, and hundreds. Students will count up using the centimeter tape or a classroom number line. Comparison extends into finding 100 more and 100 less, 10 more and 10 less, one more and one less.

Social Studies/Science

In Social Studies we will be studying Unit 2: New York City Over Time. This unit focuses on reading and analyzing rich collections of primary and secondary sources, examining historical artifacts, and interpreting images such as paintings and maps.

Engineers will investigate how we can design a mixture for a certain purpose. For centuries, humans have undertaken this challenge. From the creation of medicines, paints, and building materials, to the development of cleaning products, adhesives, and foods, mixtures have proven to be essential to life as we know it. By mixing ingredients together, it's possible to create a mixture that takes on some of the properties of its ingredients. In this unit, students take on the role of glue engineers and use engineering design practices to create a glue for use at their school, which serves as the design problem for the unit.

Home Connection

Your second grader has proudly been sharing their expertise on a variety of topics through non-fiction writing. Encourage them to continue to share topics they know a lot about by creating how-to books to share with the family. Ensure they are including a variety of information about their topic by asking them questions. Students can expand their knowledge on a topic or explore new ones by reading a variety of non-fiction texts. This would be a great time to take a trip to the library to explore new topics. Students are also welcome to add additional non-fiction texts to their book baggies. Remind your child to pause while they are reading to reflect on what the book has taught them in order for them to retain the information.

Math Connection:

Please review math facts within 100 with your child. Practice counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's. Also practice counting up from a given number. For example, ask students to start counting at 52 and ask them to continue counting by 1's until they reach the number 137. Continue this practice with different numbers, this is a great way for students to practice their fluency. Have your child practice building numbers on a place value chart.

