

November 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Happy November! Parent Teacher Conference is on Thursday, November 15 from 1-3 pm and 4:30-7:30 pm. There will be a half day on this day. Dismissal will be at 11:40 pm in the school yard. We look forward to speaking with you regarding your child's progress and hope to work in partnership with you.

Here are some important updates!

Math- We have started a new math unit this week focusing on Place Value. This unit will ensure students can write standard, expanded, and written form and flexibly think on each of these topics. We want students to gain a deep understanding of number sense and how the value of each number depends on their place. By the end of this unit, students should understand the base-ten system (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, and so on) and be able to compensate base-ten units for other units. Please look at our cover sheet for next week's homework for additional information.

Students will also focus on attending to precision and accuracy with story problems. When solving a story problem students should:

- Make sense of the action of a problem (understand what is happening in the word problem, underlining and circling key details)
- Think about what they know and what they are trying to find out (is the part missing or is the whole missing?)
- Solve the problem in a way that makes sense to them (using subtraction or addition to solve)
- Show their work so that someone can see how they solved it (organization, showing all of the work)

We are focused on enriching and extending our grade standards to support our students' needs. We will be sending home another letter elaborating on what Exemplar problems are and what the student expectations are for these problems.

Writing- We are in a new writing unit: Nonfiction Writing. In this unit, students will first create a nonfiction book (teaching books) on a topic that they are experts in. Our second graders have been using craft moves from Narrative mentor texts and now we plan to study Nonfiction mentor texts. Using nonfiction literature, students will notice craft moves and apply them in their writing. Students will begin writing multiple nonfiction books and then select one book to hone in on and elaborate on. **Please use the nonfiction checklists that we've attached to your child's "cold writes" (on demand writing) to understand our expectations for this writing unit.**

Word Study - Our first unit of Word Study is complete. A copy of the post-assessments will be coming home shortly. The purpose of the post-assessment is to see whether or not patterns and word study knowledge can be transferred over, applied, and retained. In addition to the post-assessment, a unit overview with all of the patterns and words we have studied will be attached. Please use this resource to practice patterns at home.

We have been emphasizing and practicing identifying parts of speech in the class. This is an imperative skill that can not only benefit students in word study and writing, but reading as well. We suggest to practice sorting words based on parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).

Reading- In reading we are working on discovering the meaning of tricky words using a variety of strategies: Meaning(Does that make sense?), Structure (Does that sound right?), and visuals (Does it look right?). Students should STOP on their own when they come to a word they don't know and use the strategies listed.

We are continuing with our weekly Book Clubs. In Book Clubs, we meet in small groups where we have guided reading workshops. In Book Club, students are all reading the same text together. As a group, we dig deeper into the texts, strengthening both comprehension and conversation skills.

This unit we will begin diving into non-fiction texts and emphasizing that in non-fiction texts the authors want to teach us about something. Students should practice reading non-fiction books and using nonfiction text features such as glossaries, word boxes, captions, and subheadings at home to learn about the topic the author is trying to teach them.

Second Grade Solving Tricky Word Strategies -

Tools for Solving and Checking Hard Words!	Try Something!	
Does that make SENSE ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about what is happening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read words you know and think, "What would make sense here?"
Does that SOUND right?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of what kind of word would fit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reread and ask, "Does that sound right?"
Does that LOOK right?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read it part-by-part. • Break the ending off the word. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break long words into smaller parts. • Pay attention to the beginning of the word.

Science- We are switching gears, moving from Social Studies to Science. Our unit of study will be: Rocks. In this unit, students will observe, describe, and sort materials based on properties. Together, we will explore places where Earth materials are found and ways that Earth materials are used in our community. We will begin a rock collection in class. In order to launch this unit, **please have your child find a rock and bring it in for our classroom rock collection.** We recommend that valuable and precious rocks stay at home.

Have a wonderful weekend!

All the best,
Second Grade Team