

March 2016 Newsletter

Mrs. Martin Grade 2

Greetings from second grade! We are very busy and having lots of fun together. Here are some great things happening in our class this month...

March curriculum:

Reading: Students are spending some time each day reading silently in a book of their choice, as well as having small group time. We are learning that vowel teams are tricky, and there are no special rules for using them, you just have to ask yourself, "Does it look right?" Our reading focus is shifting toward reading more independently for meaning and being able to answer comprehension questions. This is good practice for next year, where the focus is on reading to gain new information. During Making Meaning, we have been reading stories and making inferences about the characters and making wondering statements about what we are reading.

Writing: Thank you for joining us before vacation to celebrate the great writing by our students! Our current unit is realistic fiction. Students are in the process of creating their own fictional second grader and coming up with a problem they have to solve. We brainstormed a great list of problems that second graders can have... it is quite a list! Students are planning and writing their stories and thinking of possible solutions for their character. This is a fun unit. We will be working with Mr. Peachey to type and print our realistic fiction stories!!

Math: Unit 6 is all about facts, thinking about 100, and solving higher level story problems. We are going to extend beyond 100, working with larger numbers and multi-step problems! We are also still working on time to the 5 minute increments, so keep working on that at home!

Social Studies: We will continue to work on map skills. We also talked about Presidents' Day before vacation. Ask your child about George Washington and his teeth!

Science: We are learning about how energy can cause change. We have some experiments with light, sound, and heat. Students are now working as engineers while building moving vehicles, or "Capselas." Ask your second grader about the battery, gears, tires, and propellers...and how the engineering design process is working in their small group!

Health: We will soon be learning about the life cycle of a chick, from (get ready!) fertilization to hatching and growing into an adult hen or rooster. This is always a fun and exciting time in second grade, and may send your students home with some interesting tidbits of information and fun questions for you to answer!!

Please turn over...

News and Notes...

***Believe it or not, spring conference time is quickly approaching!! I'll be sending home a sign-up form soon, so be on the lookout for it. Conference days are Thursday April 7 (full conference day) and Tuesdays April 5 and 12 (half day Tuesdays)!!**

*The Alcott All-School read-a-thon begins Thursday March 3. During this time we'll be keeping track of all pages read at school and your child will fill out the brightly colored read-a-thon reading log instead of our regular log during this time. Thanks in advance for your help with counting pages. In case you haven't heard, the kids set a lofty goal of reading 550,000 pages school-wide this month, so we really need those home reading logs to be returned each Friday.

***There will be an Alcott book fair this week at school. We'll be attending the fair as a class on Monday March 7 during the school day, so you can send your child in with some money to buy a book or two on that day.**

* Due to some issues with Pokemon cards, students will no longer be allowed to bring them to school in grade 2. This is a grade-wide policy. Thanks for your help with keeping the trading cards at home.