

August 4, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Westpark Elementary's Back-to-School Night. We are off to a great start and I am looking forward to a happy, productive year for your child. Thank you so much for all of the supplies and donations to our classroom! The following packet will familiarize you with your child's second grade program.

**Language Arts:** Elements of a balanced language arts program include: reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. We will be using the Houghton Mifflin Reading Series. Each unit integrates phonics, grammar, and writing mechanics. The units also emphasize vocabulary development, comprehension, reading, writing, and oral language skills. We will be doing extension activities and projects that foster a higher level thinking process.

**RTI:** All 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are grouped according to their reading level. We will have reading instruction in RTI groups everyday from 9:00-10:00. They are taught the curriculum with a focus on strategies that will best help them reach their full potential as a reader.

**Writing:** Teacher-modeled writing and student writing will explore the writing domains (persuasive, analytical, comparison, and informative), Writer's Workshop, literary response journals and mini-lessons on the six traits of writing in rotations. We are very excited to be focusing on real life lessons and experiences in our writing this year.

**Listening and Speaking:** These skills will be explored as the students partake in the following activities: Author's Chair, Readers' Theater, Star of the Week sharing, and project presentations.



IUSD adopted a wonderful new math program last year by Houghton Mifflin. This standards-based program incorporates objects, drawings, conceptual language, and real-world situations to help students build mathematical ideas that make sense to them. A great resource for parents is the text website: [www.eduplace.com/math/mthexp/](http://www.eduplace.com/math/mthexp/)

## Units of Instruction:

- 1- Addition and Subtraction
- 2- Solving Story Problems
- 3- Addition to 200
- 4- Tables and graphs
- 5- Fractions
- 6- 3 Digit Addition and Subtraction
- 7- Multiplication

**\*Note: Mini-units will teach geometry, money, measurement and time concepts THROUGHOUT the year.**

We will also cover basic math skills through weekly goal tests, Marcy Cook tiles, Number Stumpers, and math centers. Each week students will have fact fluency goals to work on at home and at school. On Thursdays, they will be tested. Once they pass a goal, they will advance on to the next goal.

\*If you need to print out a math homework page, go here:

[http://www.iusd.org/student\\_resources/Mathematics.html](http://www.iusd.org/student_resources/Mathematics.html)

and click on 2<sup>nd</sup> grade "Homework and Remembering book"

## SOCIAL STUDIES

It is our goal to develop responsible, cooperative, compassionate and respectful individuals. We want students to feel good about who they are and what they can be. Our social studies series by Harcourt will be used as a guide:

### Units of Instruction:

**Families, Now and Long Ago**  
**Governing the People**  
**People in the Marketplace**



**The Land Around Us**  
**Using Our Resources**  
**People Make a Difference**

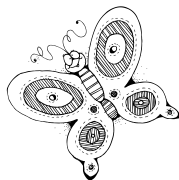
## SCIENCE

Students will have the opportunity for hands-on, in depth learning.

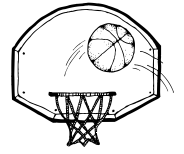
The units we cover will emphasize the inquiry-based scientific methods of: Observation, Classification, Measurement, Collecting and Organizing Data, Predicting and Communicating.

### Units of Instruction:

**Rocks and Soil**  
**Plants and Insects**  
**Balance and Motion**



**Physical Education:** PE will be Tuesdays (12:25-1:00) and Fridays (8:30-9:00). We will cover large motor and small motor skills through various game and activities. Sportsmanship and effort are emphasized. Please make sure students wear comfortable shoes on PE days!



\*We will have music every other Monday for 40 minutes.



2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers will provide art lessons focused on visual arts.

**Technology:**

Students will have 30 minutes of computer instruction each week to practice and develop computer skills. Helpers are welcome: Fridays 1:40-2:00.



**Homework:** Your child's education takes teamwork. You are the "head Coach" at home and your job is to monitor and check their homework. You need to grade their effort and sign the homework contract to let me know all the work has been completed. There is no need to return completed practice pages once you have checked them.

The purpose of second grade homework is to build strong work habits that will grow into strong study skills. It is important to establish a consistent "at home" routine for academic practice.

**Birthdays:** If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday, feel free to donate a **book** to our school library!! Please **DO NOT** send food. In class, we will celebrate by singing to the birthday student, they will get the birthday monkey on their desk for the day, they read a birthday book, and they get a birthday pencil and bonus point. 😊



## Behavior Management

Every child has the right to enjoy a safe and nurturing environment in which he/she can learn and grow to his/her full potential. It is the responsibility of each student to act appropriately towards his/her teacher and peers. Students receive positive reinforcement in a variety of ways.

**Classroom Cash:** Students earn "money" for following classroom rules, completing assignments on time, and maintaining a classroom job. Classroom cash is also earned for growth and improvement. They may use their classroom cash to buy items on Business Day (once a quarter).

**Table Points:** Each table can earn points by working as a team. Points are awarded for following directions together and helping each other. Table point winners can earn classroom cash and bonus points at the end of the week.

**Marble Jar:** Our class can earn marbles by uniting to follow class rules. This is a whole-class reward and students must work together as a team. When the jar is full, students earn a Marble Jar Celebration!



**Our A.I.R. Behavior Chart:** This helps students be aware and keep track of their behavior each day.

\*Students begin each day by placing their name on the "**READY TO LEARN**" section of the chart. Depending on the behavior choices throughout the day, they may earn their way up the chart to: "**Good Day**", "**Great Day**", or "**Outstanding**". They earn rewards for each move up. A child may also earn their way down the chart to: "**Think About It- Your Choice**", "**Teacher Choice**", and "**Parent Contact**". There are consequences with each move: a warning/reminder to make better behavior choices, a loss of play time at recess and a fine of classroom cash. If a child moves their name to "**Parent Contact**", the fine is doubled, there is a loss of recess and/or privileges, and a "Behavior Choices" note goes home and must be signed (by an adult) and returned the next day.

**Bonus Points:** This is an opportunity for students to earn individual recognition for good behavior. Bonus Points (BP's) last for the entire year and students earn rewards at the different levels. ☺



## Star of the Week

One of my goals is to enhance self-esteem and help each student develop a sense of self confidence. To help the process along, each student will have the opportunity to be the "Star of the Week". They will be able to share important parts of their lives with the class. All students need to complete a special "All about Me" poster that they will share in class. Family is a big part of our social studies theme; so if possible, please include some fun family photos.

\*Please turn in the poster on or before the Monday of the week listed next to your child's name. Students will present their posters to the class on first day of "their" week.

### STAR OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE:

Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup> - Aditi	Aug.22 <sup>nd</sup> - Alexander	Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> - Abhi
Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> - Alexandra	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> -Annika	Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> - Becca
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> - Brietta	Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> - Daniela	Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> - Dijan
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> -Ethan	Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> - Evan H.	Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> - Evan Y.
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> - Hannah	Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> - Isabel	Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup> - Jacob
Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> - Jonathan	Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Katherine	Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> - Kia
Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> -Madison	Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> -Maria	Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> - Mason
Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> -Nickon	March 5 <sup>th</sup> - Pablo	March 12 <sup>th</sup> - Ryan
March 19 <sup>th</sup> - Samantha	April 16 <sup>th</sup> - Siddarth	April 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Taran
April 30 <sup>th</sup> - Vishnu	May 7 <sup>th</sup> -Vismaya	May 14 <sup>th</sup> - Zachary
May 1 <sup>st</sup> - Zain		

### Communication:

An effective school program relies on a good communication system between parents and teachers. I will make phone calls, send notes, and write newsletters to keep you informed. The Parent Portal is also a wonderful way to keep you informed. Phone: (949) 936-6444 E-mail: lpape@iusd.org  
Website: [www.iusd.org/wp](http://www.iusd.org/wp) (From the menu on the left, choose "Grade Levels" and then "Second Grade". This page will be updated with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade information!)

Working together, we will make this year a successful learning experience for your child! We look forward to a rewarding year for all of us!

Respectfully yours,

The Second Grade Team

Mrs. Pape, Miss Howell, Miss Bentley, Mrs. Austin, and Miss Bagwell