



# Second Grade News

February 2012

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that February is here! We listed the class lists for valentines on our grade level web page so that you can have them ready for the upcoming festivities, which will be discussed later in the newsletter. Here's an update on some of the concepts we will be studying this month.

In Language Arts, we are working on using quotation marks and correct punctuation in sentences. We continue to work on phonics skills and higher level reading comprehension skills, such as making inferences and drawing conclusions. Students are also learning the purpose of various reference materials: the dictionary, thesaurus and atlas.

In Writing, students are learning to develop Sentence Fluency. Do sentences begin in different ways? Do sentences have different lengths and structure? Does the writing "sound right" when read aloud?

The Math focus this month is on reviewing regrouping in addition (or "carrying") and ungrouping in subtraction (or "borrowing") along with some new skills. Students will be learning about shapes and patterns, multiplication, and fractions.

In Science, students have enjoyed becoming geologists as we explore a unit on Pebbles, Sand, and Silt.

The children will be making Valentine Bags in class. All children should either **make or buy a valentine for each child in the class**. This helps to avoid hurt feelings. **Valentines are due on Tuesday, February 7.** The children will be "mailing" their valentines during the week. Students will open their valentines on Tuesday, February 14. They will enjoy a cookie and punch while they read their special valentine cards.

We will soon be practicing some of the format for the STAR tests that students will be taking in early May. Students cannot study for this test; the work they do in kindergarten through second grade helps to prepare them. Reviewing your child's daily work that comes home in the weekly VIP folder, and helping with homework is the best support that you can give your child.

It is especially important that you provide additional practice reviewing any concept with which your child is struggling. Also, many children still need to practice their addition and subtraction math facts. This becomes very important as we move toward more complex computation. Lack of knowledge in basic facts can be quite a hindrance. Additionally, children need to be able to tell time within one minute increments, i.e. 3:53, 2:11, 1:05, etc. Students must also be able to tell how much time has elapsed from a given time to another, i.e. from 2:30 to 4:00 one and one-half hours have elapsed.

**Important Homework Reminder:**

Please review the homework standards listed below. We have been receiving homework that is incomplete and on which there are many errors. It is important for students at this age to develop conscientious work habits and homework is an important tool for developing these life skills.

- Complete all written work neatly in pencil.
- Label each assignment with the day of the week assigned.
- Provide a parent signature for any spellingcity.com activity completed.
- Provide a parent signature at the end of the completed homework contract indicating the child has read each evening and that a parent has checked to verify that the written homework has been completed in a quality manner, all work and answers are correct, and all work is labeled and attached.
- Turn in completed homework contracts by Friday morning at 8:10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted on contract).

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

The Second Grade Teachers