



January 2012

January Newsletter from Second Grade



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your families. We are already busy working on new skills in second grade. In math, the students have learned regrouping in addition (“carrying”) and will soon begin working on regrouping in subtraction (“borrowing”). We will also be adding and subtracting using dollar signs and decimal points.

Please remember to continue practicing math facts. It is our goal that all of our students know their basic facts to 18 in addition and subtraction as well as multiplication facts (2s, 5s, and 10s) from memory by the end of second grade. Remember that just 10 minutes a day spent practicing with flash cards, drill sheets, or on math web sites can dramatically improve your child’s memory of basic facts. Research also shows that **saying the problem and the answer aloud** when practicing with flash cards can help your child commit the facts to memory more quickly.

Our character education theme for this month is “Acceptance.” Here is the description as it is taught in class: Acceptance is appreciating differences in others, listening to and respecting a different point of view, looking past outer appearances, and enjoying what others have to offer.

Please remember to review corrected papers that come home with your child in the Thursday VIP folder. The time you take going over the mistakes your child has made can really pay off. Of course it is also very important to take time to acknowledge all of the great work your child does. The work in the VIP folders also gives you important information about your child’s progress in class.

Students will soon be making valentine bags at home. As part of the homework during the month of February, children will decorate a paper bag to be used for their **valentine “mailbag.”** We will supply the bags because they need to be larger than the typical lunch bags. Students will be “mailing” their valentines to each other, sometimes with treats attached. Every child will be asked to make or buy a valentine for each child in his or her classroom. You may want your child to begin making the valentines or you may wish to purchase the valentines in advance. It’s a fun project that the children look forward to as the holiday approaches.

Upcoming Events:

January 3 - School Resumes (Welcome Back!)

January 12 - PTA Restaurant Night

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday - No School

February 6-10 – Conference Week – (1:00 Dismissal)

February 13 - Lincoln's Birthday Holiday - No School

February 20 - Washington's Birthday Holiday - No School

February 23 – Open House (1:00 Dismissal)

Thank you for your continued support. We hope that you and your families have a very happy and healthy 2012!

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Teachers

