

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.

We will use the Scholastic News Magazine in small and whole group settings. A selection of novels will be used in whole groups, small groups, and individually.

**RTI (Reading Groups):** All 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are grouped according to their reading abilities and needs. We will have reading instruction in RTI groups everyday from 9:00-10:00. They are taught the curriculum at the level 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 lessons on the six traits of writing. 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: Readers' Theater, Star of the Week sharing, and project presentations individually and with small groups.



# MATH

We will continue to use our wonderful math program 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- Subtraction
- 6- 3 Digit Addition and Subtraction
- 7- Multiplication and Fractions

**\*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 5-8 facts 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:

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Families, Now and Long Ago | 2. The Land Around Us       |
| 3. Governing the People       | 4. Using Our Resources      |
| 5. People in the Marketplace  | 6. 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:

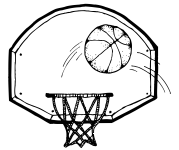
**Rocks and Soil**

**Balance and Motion**

**Insects and Plants**



Physical Education: PE will be Tuesdays (12:30-1:00) and Thursdays (10:30-11:00). We will cover large motor and fine motor skills through various game and activities. Sportsmanship is emphasized. Please make sure students wear comfortable shoes on PE days!



\*We will have music every other Monday for 40 minutes. This is made possible by the fabulous Westpark PTA!



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

Technology : Students will have 30 minutes of computer instruction each week to practice and develop computer skills.



Birthdays: If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday, feel free to donate a book to our school and/or class library!! Please **DO NOT** send food. We will celebrate by singing and the birthday student will get to wear the birthday sombrero and shake the maracas! ☺



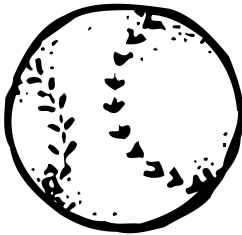
## Behavior Management

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. 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. Students can earn classroom cash at the end of the week. Tables change each month.

**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!



**Choices Chart:** This helps students be aware and keep track of their behavior each day.

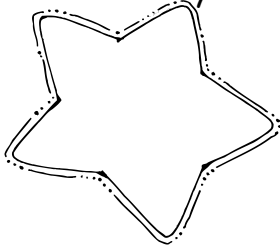
\*Home Run: If the bat stays on home run, the student is having a great day!

\*Strike One: Warning

\*Strike Two: Choices note goes home and must be signed and returned. A fine of classroom cash will also be taken and student will be removed from the activity.

\*Strike Three: Note home, the fine is doubled, and there is a loss of recess and/or privileges.

**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. They will come home with certificates for every 100 BPs that they earn!



## 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 Monday of the week listed below (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). Students will present their posters to the class on Wednesdays.

### STAR OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE:

Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> - Tyler	Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup> - Yasmine	Aug. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Xavier
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> - Sachi	Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> - Tucker	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> - Tiana
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> - Peyton	Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> - Rehaan	Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> - Pranav
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> - Merek	Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> - Nicholas	Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> - Natalie
Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup> - Jonathan	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> - Matthew	Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> - Karthik
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> - Giulia	Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> - Jazmine	Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Isabella
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> - Ashley	Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> - Ethan	Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup> - Dirk
March 12 <sup>th</sup> - Amy	Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> - Anton	March 5 <sup>th</sup> - Andres
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Ally	March 19 <sup>th</sup> - Amelie	April 16 <sup>th</sup> - Alvin
May 14 <sup>th</sup> - Zach	April 30 <sup>th</sup> - Alex	May 7 <sup>th</sup> - Aaron

### Communication:

An effective school program relies on a good communication system between parents and teachers. I will make phone calls, send notes, and write e-mails to keep you informed. The Parent Portal is also a wonderful way to keep you informed on school wide events.

Phone: (949) 936-6442

**E-mail: [kmbentle@iusd.org](mailto:kmbentle@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- including the homework log each week.

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

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