



---

# Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

January 26-30, 2015

## Reading

In reading this week we learned a new reading strategy called Close Reading. This involves carefully rereading a text to deepen comprehension. Close Reading involves reading a text three times. The first read is just to get the gist and set the purpose for reading. The second read includes annotating (yes, we know that word!) the text

by flagging, marking, or highlighting a particular part, and the third read is for putting it all together: talking about the text and answering questions. This strategy of Close Reading will be very beneficial for the children when they take the Badger Exam next year in third grade. They will develop the habits of a purposeful, strategic reader,

and will gain a much deeper understanding of what they read. We also began using a new app in some small guided reading groups this week. The app is called *EPIC!* and it is an online library of children's books that kids can read on an iOS device. I will be introducing it to the whole class next week, and I will share information about how you can get **TWO MONTHS FREE** at home! It's like Netflix for books!

## Writing

In writing this week we began a new piece of writing in the persuasive genre. The children are working on writing a Book Review to persuade the audience to read

or not to read their book. To start, we examined many other book reviews, and then practiced rating books with 1-5 stars. The children selected a book that they had

a strong opinion about, and then they planned their review by identifying the main idea, stating their opinion, rating the book, and then giving reasons for their opinion.

## Math

In math we have been focusing on addition and subtraction number stories. We have learned how to use three different diagrams which can help us to organize the numbers when we add and subtract. Change to

more, part part total, and quantity quantity difference are all diagrams the children should be comfortable with using. We also worked on some graphing this week and learned how to read a graph and to

analyze the data. Finally, we moved on to discussing subtraction strategies

---

## Upcoming Events:

2/5, 2/10—Conferences and Book Fair  
2/6—Barrie Spirit Day!  
2/9—100th Day of School!  
2/13—Valentine Party!  
2/17—Classroom Level Interpretive Reading Contest  
2/20—Early Release

---

## Reminders:

Now that we are halfway through the year, ask your child if he/she needs any school supplies replenished. Pencils, erasers, crayons, etc. often run out by this time :)

---

## Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: IMC, Art

Thursday: PE

Friday: PE

---

## Science

In Science this week the children began a new unit on Solids and Liquids. They experimented with several different types of solids and their properties.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies this week began a new unit on Government. We talked about what the government is and what it does, and how there are different types of governments. We previewed some vocabulary words that we will study in this unit, including president, vote, citizen, and law. We also learned how to

identify the main idea and details of what we read to help us better understand information. We learned that we honor our country by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the Star Spangled Banner. We learned what the words mean and how we can show respect to the flag when we say these important words.

## Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week we learned how to be a good sport. We discussed strategies for being a good loser and a graceful winner. We shared ideas for things to say after winning a game or after losing, and

discussed how it feels to win and lose. Finally, we learned how to discuss, select, and agree on rules before starting a game and how to make sure the game is played fairly for everyone involved. We also

Spent time practicing correct formation for the letters Bb, Pp, and Rr. It is important that children think carefully about this, as some are still reversing b, d, and p.

## Special Announcements

### OLSAT Testing

2nd graders in Fort Atkinson will be taking the OLSAT test on February 23 and 24. More information will follow.

### Math Game of the Week:

[www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com)  
"Number Grid Difference Game"  
This game gives children practice in finding differences on a Number Grid. This is a two-player game. We played it in class on Friday. Your child can teach you how to play!

### Special Events:

We will have our Valentine's Day party on Friday, February 13th. A list of students in our class will be sent home soon! If you would like to bring something for this party, please let me know. We only had a few people sign up at Back to School Night :)