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

Mrs. Adams' Class

Oct. 20-24, 2014

## Reading

In reading this week we began a unit of study on the persuasive genre. We have discovered that persuasion is all around us, from the commercials we watch, to the billboards we see on the side of the road, to the books and magazines we read, and the posters and flyers we see around our school. We've been discussing techniques authors use

when they persuade an audience, and we have done some fun activities to practice being persuasive. We have read several mentor texts to identify elements of persuasion including I Wanna New Room, Hey Little Ant, Earrings, and The Day the Crayons Quit. We have been keeping track of our thinking by recording our learning in our

Thoughtful Logs. In Word Study this week we learned how to use an apostrophe S to show ownership. As always, we continue to meet in small guided reading groups to apply skills and grow as readers.

## Writing

This week in writing we built on our learning from reading workshop by practicing strategic persuasive writing behaviors that real authors use, like introducing a

request, providing reasons, capturing the audience's attention, giving information, and making the request again. Using this knowledge, the children will be creating a persuasive flyer, so we have been examining different types of flyers and their

designs. We planned our flyers this week and the children chose what information they wanted to include and how they were going to convince the audience during pre-writing, and next week we will draft!

## Math

This week in math we continued to apply our knowledge of addition and subtraction to complete various types of problems. We learned how to complete Function Machines to follow a "rule" by adding or

subtracting numbers to complete the table. We also learned some tricks for subtracting. If the number to subtract is small, counting back is best. If the two numbers are close, counting up might be faster. If you

are subtracting 8 or 9, we can use a shortcut on the Number Grid to get the answer quickly. We also took our Unit 2 Assessment. I will share this test and the IPP with you at Conferences in Nov.

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## Upcoming Events:

### 10/27—Q1 Geography Test

10/28—Family Fun Night  
10/31—EARLY RELEASE  
End of Quarter 1  
10/31—Fall Party and

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## Reminders:

- Remember to be filling out the October book list for our 2nd Grade Reading Club! Our goal is to read 24 books each month.
- **Please continue studying for the Geography Test! A little bit of practice each night will help a great deal!**

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## Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: PE

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: IMC, Art

Friday: PE

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## Science

This week in science the children did one last observation of their lawns and wheat and took the plants home. They also began discussing how to create a class terrarium. They created a map of the terrarium and will build it next week! If you have any peanut butter jars that you are done with we could use them at school for science!

## Social Studies

This week we reviewed for our Unit 1 test by playing a game called Geography Jeopardy. We thought back to what we had learned during the unit and prepared to answer questions on the test. After the review, we took our first unit test. We also practiced locating places on our three maps for the Geography

Test coming up on Monday. We labeled the places on the SMARTboard and used "map flashcards" to practice with a friend. Thank you for your help at home to ensure your child has several opportunities to practice at home. We will take the same test at the end of every quarter. Grades will be reported 2nd and 4th quarter.

## Health/Guidance/Handwriting

In handwriting this week we began our journey through the alphabet. We will be practicing letters in groups of three, according to the similarities they share. This week

we began with the letters Ll, Ii, and Tt. We noticed that these letters all have vertical pencil strokes and start in the same way. We will continue to make our way

through the alphabet in this way, reciting verbal pathways and working on our Size, Shape, Spacing, and Slant.

## Special Announcements

Our Fall Party will take place on Thursday, October 31st. This is an Early Release day, so the party and parade will be in the morning. I will notify families who signed up to bring food or supplies for the party a week in advance. The children are already very excited about what they will be dressing up as :)

### Math Game of the Week:

#### "XtraMath"

This game can be found on the website

[www.xtramath.org](http://www.xtramath.org).

This provides individualized practice with targeted addition facts that your child hasn't yet mastered.

### Ask Your Child:

- Let's study your geography maps!
- What is a flyer?
- How can an author be persuasive?