



Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Sept. 15-19, 2014

Reading

This week we began our first official Reader's Workshop! We always begin with a Word Study lesson, and then move on to our mini-lesson, which is related to a reading strategy, genre, comprehension strategy, or classroom procedure, and then we begin small reading group rotations and independent literacy activities. The children

have learned how to Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Read to Someone, and write in their Thoughtful Log. These activities are self-regulated so I can maintain focus with small groups of readers. We have been focusing on the Narrative genre in our mini-lessons, and have been exploring realistic and fantasy fiction. We've read several

mentor texts and have been working on proving their genre by citing evidence from the text and writing our thoughts in our logs. Our word study lessons included building high frequency words and consonant blends with magnetic letters using an activity called Make, Say, Check, Mix. This allows the children to practice building the word multiple times before writing it down.

Writing

This week in writing we learned how to REVISE our writing. This is step 3 in the writing process. We practiced finding places in our writing that we could add or

change words to include more detail. We also reviewed capitalization and punctuation rules and practiced using them. Finally, we learned how to formally

EDIT our writing. This step is the most involved as it requires looking back at our drafts to find mistakes. We will take a few days for this!

Math

The children are beginning to become familiar with the routine and procedures in Everyday Math. We continue to work through Unit 1, starting each day with a Math Message and Mental Math exercises, a whole-

group mini-lesson, independent practice in their math journal, and mixed review problems called Math Boxes. We also have learned 5 games that extend what was learned in each lesson and give the

children a chance to apply what they learned. These games can also be played online! Next week we will visit the computer lab and I will show the children how to access this website from home. More information to follow!

Upcoming Events:

9/26—BARRIE BLITZ
9/30—Picture Retake Packages Due

Reminders:

- Please return Take Home Book permission slip.

Next Week's Specials

Monday: Music

Tuesday: PE

Wednesday: PE

Thursday: Music

Friday: IMC, Art



Science

The children continue to study plants and seeds in Science with Mrs. England. This week they observed their lawns and planted wheat seeds in straws. They are recording their observations in a special Science Notebook and using vocabulary just like real scientists!

Social Studies

In social studies this week we continued in our unit on Geography. We observed different kinds of maps, and noted the difference between continents, countries, states, and cities. We discovered that the closer you zoom in the more detail you can see! We also learned how maps can show landforms, climate, and high-

ways. We also read about the compass and the cardinal directions. We learned some tricks for helping us remember the four directions and played a fun game to help us remember which is which. See if your child can challenge you at home! Watch for a packet of maps to come home as a way to practice for the upcoming Geography test.

Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week we discussed ways to stay healthy and avoid spreading germs. We learned about how germs can be passed from one person to the next and what they do in-

side our bodies to make us sick. We also practiced the first of the 4 S's of good handwriting: *shape*. We know that our letters should have good shape

when we write so our printing is easy to read.

Special Announcements

Next week we will begin take-home books. Your child will bring home a book bag and a take-home book. The children will select from a collection of books that are at their independent reading levels. Your child should be able to read this book fluently and without very much support. Reading will be part of your child's nightly homework. Please plan to set aside 15 minutes of reading per night. Listening to your child read is recommended, but not required. Each day, your child should bring the book back to school to check out a new one. Books that are longer may take more than one night. We will also begin math homework next week. A note will be sent home explaining this further. Thank you for your help in modeling responsibility!

Ask Your Child:

- What are math boxes?
- What are the four main directions?
- What does it mean to EDIT your writing?