



Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Sept. 8-12, 2014

Reading

We had such a busy week in Reader's Workshop! We spent time discussing and practicing activities the children will engage in while I am meeting with individual students or groups. We've learned procedures and expectations for Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Read to Someone, and how to write in our Thoughtful Logs. The children are

working on building up their stamina for being able to read longer amounts of time each day without stopping. We've already worked up to 12 minutes! Our goal will be to read for 30 minutes continuously by the end of the year. We also learned how to use our library and how to choose Good Fit Books by considering your purpose for reading, interest in the topic, comprehension for ideas, and knowledge of words.

We have also been studying the Narrative Genre and have been reading several examples of stories written in this genre. We learned a technique called Turn and Talk which allows the children to talk to their neighbor about ideas in the story. In Word Study we have been learning and practicing Self-Help Spelling strategies so we don't have to ask an adult for help when we are stuck.

Writing

This week in writing we spent time talking about why we write and what our jobs as writers are. We read some stories by real authors and brainstormed places we

can get ideas. The children were given a special binder where they will keep all of their important writing materials during Writer's Workshop this year. We also

began to discuss the process of writing a story. We learned how to Prewrite and Draft our own *All About Me* stories.

Math

As explained in our 2nd Grade Handbook, our district is in the second year of implementation with a math program called Everyday Math. In contrast to our old math program where we spent time on one skill for several days and

then had a test, this program spirals throughout the year and we will revisit concepts and skills over and over again to provide the children with multiple opportunities to be successful. You will receive a Family Letter at the beginning

of each unit which will let you know what we will be focusing on. This week we practiced completing number sequences, making tally marks, skip counting, counting coins, and reading a clock and calendar.

Upcoming Events:

9/26—Barrie Blitz
9/30—Picture Retake packages due

Reminders:

- Students may bring a snack to school for our milk break each day.
- Soon children will bring home Take Home books which should be read each night and returned the following day.

Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: PE

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: IMC, Art

Friday: PE



Science

This year the children will travel to Mrs. England's room for science class. She will be the science teacher for both classes and I will teach social studies to both classes. The first science unit is on Plants and Animals. The children began planting their very own lawns!

Social Studies

In social studies we began our first unit on Geography. We started by reading a big book showing how land has changed over time. In this unit we will learn about maps and their features, and how to use maps to help find places. At the end of the unit, the children will have

a unit test on the essential understandings, vocabulary, content, and skills we learned. They will also have a District Geography Test at the end of each quarter which will test them on various continents, countries, oceans, states, and cities. More information to come!

Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week we had a Guidance lesson on how to tell how others are feeling by looking at their facial expressions, body language, and by observing the situation around them. We know that we can positively or negatively affect

the way someone is feeling by our words and actions. We also used our Handwriting books for the first time and learned about how to hold our pencils and sit up straight while writing. We also learned

about the four different pencil strokes that are used to write letters and numbers: vertical, horizontal, slant, and curve lines.

Special Announcements

We've had a great first few weeks of school! The children are learning our routines and procedures and we are starting to settle into our classroom and schedule. Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns as we go through the year. I look forward to working together as partners in your child's education!

Ask Your Child:

- What does it mean to DRAFT a story?
- What is a bling bling?
- How do you choose a book?
- What are the bouncy balls on the SMARTboard used for?