

Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families,

Can you believe we are beginning our 9<sup>th</sup> week of school? How time flies when we are having fun! Seems like cooler days may finally be upon us. When we head out for our morning recess, it is chilly...please be sure to send a jacket for your child. Thank you!

The final week of this month, CCA will hold parent/teacher conferences. I want to meet with every family—I have lots of good information to share with you! Please pick a slot on the sign-up sheet hanging on the bulletin board outside of our classroom. If none of the available time slots work for you, please let me know and we will arrange something different.

Since we got out of our routine with bookmobile, this week will be a Library week once again. Please have your child return their library book to get a new one on Thursday.

Just a reminder, picture forms came home last week. Picture day is Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to place an order, please be sure I have your child's order form and money on that day.

As I'm sure you've noticed, every day we write our spelling words three times each with their markings, and then we put them in a sentence. They have been doing a pretty good job of this, but some of their sentences are lacking. I'm encouraging the children to write bigger, longer, more detailed sentences...so I hope to be seeing these in the future. Because these three times each/sentence pages are usually worth a lot of points, they typically outweigh our spelling tests in the grade book. I believe the tests should have more weight than a regular class assignment; therefore, I will be changing the way I assign a score to the spelling tests. Beginning this week, tests will be based off of 100% to give them more value in the grade book. If you have any questions on this, please let me know. Thanks!

One final reminder before I begin with our studies for this week. If you do not have a username and password to access your child's grades in Infinite Campus, PLEASE see Robin. It is important that you are able to access your child's grades.

Okay, on to our studies for the week! Our Imagine It! Story is "Hungry Hoppers," a story full of facts and information about grasshoppers...something we should all know quite a bit about, considering how many there are in our community! Please be sure to re-read this story with your child Wednesday evening. Thank you!

In math, we will count quarters, round to the nearest ten, take an assessment, learn the subtracting 7 facts, and find one-half of a set with an even number of objects.

In history, we continue to learn about the War of 1812. We will be learning the story of the British invading and burning Washington, D.C. Dolly Madison was preparing for a dinner party at the White House when the British invaded the city.

She grabbed a portrait of George Washington, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution before evacuating. The British actually came in and ate her gourmet meal before burning the White House down! It is a fascinating story, and we'll do an art project related to it. We will also be learning the story of how the Star-Spangled Banner came to be written. Francis Scott Key wrote it on the back of an envelope while watching the British and Americans battle at Fort McHenry. We will learn a lot of history of the flag as well.

In Core Knowledge Fiction, we continue to read Peter Pan. We will once again play the game "Tink," which tests the children's comprehension of the story.

During the month of October, we will be discussing the character trait titled "Failure Leads to Success." We will learn that sometimes we have to try and try again before we are successful, which often makes us stronger and more educated along the way. We'll be reading the book Franklin Rides a Bike, which illustrates his ups and downs while learning to ride without training wheels. We will be discussing how "Failure Leads to Success" applies to our lives as well.

In computer class, we have been working on our keyboarding skills. We've learned where the "home keys" are, and we're working on keeping our fingers on those home keys, rather than pecking at the keys! We've also been typing some sentences in Microsoft Word, and we've completed some projects in Active Inspire.

In Shurley English/writing this week, we will learn the Article Adjective Jingle (the article adjectives are *a*, *an*, and *the*). We will continue to classify sentences using all that we've learned now: subject nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and article adjectives. We'll be working on writing summaries off of an informational piece of writing.

In closing, I want to let you know how very much I am enjoying your children. They are a wonderful group of children that I enjoy spending my days with.

Warmly,  
Stacy Thompson