

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

Welcome back to another week! First and foremost, as I mentioned to many of you last week, Infinite Campus seems to be working properly now; therefore, grades are all current. Graded work will come home on Tuesday. So sorry for the inconvenience and delay. Infinite Campus is used all across the nation, so I am assuming we were not the only ones inconvenienced by this!

An important reminder: no school this Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> due to a teacher in-service. Other reminders: this week is a bookmobile week, so please have your child return their books to get new ones on Thursday. Our Valentine's Day party will be held on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be hanging in the hallway soon if you can contribute to our party. Thanks to Carolyn Franke and Mackenzie Bone for planning our party—they have some fun things lined up for the kids on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup>. A list of our classmates' names came home last week so your child can write Valentines. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the last week of February. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hall in the next week or so. I'd like to meet with everyone, so please plan to sign-up for a time slot. Thanks! And, one final thing: we'll begin plans for this year's Mini-Relay for Life soon. If you'd like to help with the planning of this year's event, please attend a meeting in my classroom after school on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Okay, on to our studies for this week! We are beginning a new unit in Imagine It! and our theme for the next five weeks will be "courage." Our Imagine It! story this week is titled "Dragons and Giants." The genre of this story is fantasy, meaning it is a story that could not happen in the real world. "Dragons and Giants" is a Frog and Toad story, which the children always enjoy. It is a short story, so the children will be completing the re-read only on Wednesday night.

In writing, the children will finish their get well letters this week. They will begin another letter this week. This time we will be writing to a Disney character. Mrs. Vroom shared with me that if you write to a Disney character, they will send back an autographed picture, so we are very excited about receiving something back after we send our letters off!

Last week I was able to determine a good starting place for us in Grade 3 Saxon Math. Students will have homework on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, but none Thursday due to an assessment. This week we will count dimes, nickels, and pennies and write fractions.

Cursive writing has proved to be harder than the children expected! However, they are still very enthusiastic about learning it! We continue to work through little bits of our handwriting books every day.

In history this week, we continue to learn about Immigration & Citizenship. We'll understand the resistance Americans had toward immigrants and the discrimination that ensued. We'll look at the contributions of immigrants in building the Transcontinental Railroad, and we'll understand the rights all citizens have. We will learn about Ellis Island as a historic site and a symbol of the immigration experience.

In science last week, the kids were delighted yet disgusted with our stomach and intestines experiments! This week we will look at the system as a whole, and we'll also look at the food pyramid and discuss healthy eating. Please have your child bring in magazines that we could cut pictures from for a food pyramid on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have a quiz over the digestive system next week before moving on to our cells. No need to study for this quiz at home—we'll do all prep necessary here in the classroom. =)

As for spelling, I've reminded the children that on their tests, they receive one point per word for handwriting. For those with poor, sloppy handwriting, I will begin taking points off more readily now. Remind your child to take their time and be careful.

That should do it for this week! Have a great one!

Warmly,  
Stacy Thompson