

Sunday, January 8th, 2012

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

While it was hard to get up for that first day back last week, once we got into the swing of things, it was great to be back into our daily school routine! Ms. Reyes reported that the 2nd graders were GREAT for her last Thursday, which I was so happy to hear...plus I already knew that—these kids are pretty great in general! Unfortunately, there was bad timing with my conference falling last Thursday because I will be gone again this Thursday for family reasons. Fortunately, Ms. Reyes will be subbing once again.

The end of 1st semester is at the end of this week. I will probably stop taking grades for this semester Wednesday or Thursday, and then everything after that will go onto 2nd semester's grade. Report cards will be coming home next week.

This week is a library check-out week, so please have your child return their books to get new ones.

I will be completing mid-year DIBELS testing this week. Because of this, the children will not be reading from their reading group books during morning centers; therefore, there will be no reading assigned this week except for our Imagine It! story. Please be sure to have your child read something at home though on the other evenings, since reading daily is key to building vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension! Our Imagine It! story this week is titled "How to Hide an Octopus and Other Sea Creatures."

There will not be a spelling test on Tuesday the 10th as we'll be taking the monthly Orthographic test.

In writing this week, we'll be reviewing our Shurley Jingles, we'll continue to classify sentences, and we'll identify conjunctions and compound sentences.

In history, we continue our unit on the Civil War. Tuesday we will complete a project which will allow us to better visualize the Northern and Southern territories during the war. We'll also create a chart to help us identify

characteristics of the North and South. For example, the North was called the "Union" and was led by Ulysses S. Grant and the South was called the "Confederacy" and was led by Robert E. Lee. We will also learn the significance of Clara Barton to the war, and then we'll do a fun art project to help us review many of the key people during the Civil War. Our Civil War Assessment will be held on Wednesday, January 18th. A study guide will come home soon if you'd like to reinforce our learning at home.

Part of our history studies includes studying U.S. symbols. We'll be looking at the history of the Statue of Liberty this week.

Our science time this week will be dedicated to wrapping up our work in Core Knowledge Fiction, specifically Tall Tales. This week we'll take a look at Pecos Bill and John Henry. We will then view the Disney video "Legends," and compare the tales we've read to the stories in the video.

In math this week, we'll divide by 2, select the appropriate tool to measure mass, find the area of a rectangle, and make and use a multiplication table.

As for Core Knowledge Sayings, we will finish up learning about "Turn over a new leaf," which we began last week. We're learning how this saying is similar to making a New Year's Resolution, and we've written how we will turn over a new leaf during this new year. Look for these to hang in the hallway soon. We'll also take a look at the saying "Easier said than done."

I think that is all for this week!

Warmly,

Stacy Thompson