

Sunday, September 25th, 2011

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

We've got a lot on tap as we begin school this first week of fall. Many of you have turned in your reading trackers—thank you! If you haven't yet, they are due October 7th, so please get them in as soon as you can. Thanks! Just a reminder—this week is a bookmobile week, so please have your child return their books to get new ones.

Congratulations to Dominic Jones for being chosen as the 2nd Grade Integrity Winner. He will be honored at the Character Assembly on Friday, September 30th. Congratulations to Carlea Santos, as well, for being chosen Runner-Up. We've learned that one has "integrity" when what you believe matches up with what you do. It was a tough choice—2nd grade has lots of integrity!

Reading groups are going well! Remember, for the most part, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, your child will have a reading assignment to complete from their assigned book. This is a re-read, intended to build fluency and comprehension. As always, please have them read aloud to someone at home. Thanks so much!

On Wednesdays, as you well know, your child's reading assignment is to re-read the weekly Imagine It! story. We have moved out of stories based on the theme "kindness" and have moved into a new unit titled "Let's Explore!" The next multiple stories will have something to do with exploring, and are mostly non-fiction. This week's selection is titled "Ants! They are Hard Workers!" These types of stories have historically been more difficult for the children, so please be sure to complete that re-read Wednesday evening, possibly even stopping to ask your child questions about what is happening in the selection.

In Riggs, we continue to have a spelling test every day. I added a new set of lists to your child's binder on Friday. On the back of the spelling tests, I'm sure you've noticed, there are three columns that the children write words in. These are upcoming lists to be tested over that we review in class. The first two columns are reviews, and the children receive a score for participating as we spell and mark

the words. The third column is the new words. They also receive a score for their participation in spelling and marking them.

In Shurley English this week, we will continue to classify introductory sentences using the "question and answer flow"—a critical part to labeling the parts of sentences. We will also learn about adverbs by learning the "Adverb Jingle!"

In math, we will learn the subtracting 5 facts, write money amounts using dollar signs and cent symbols, and subtract two-digit numbers using dimes and pennies.

In history, we will have a brief assessment over the Constitution on Wednesday. No need to study at home—we will do so in class.

In science, we will wrap-up our Magnetism unit with an assessment on Thursday. A study guide for this assessment will come home on Tuesday; however, we will do lots of study in class as well.

In Core Knowledge Fiction, we are beginning Peter Pan! This is a fun read. We will be taking it slow, reading approximately one chapter per day, completing various activities along the way. Activities include comparing characters through Venn diagrams, identifying words we don't know and determining their meaning, looking vocabulary words up in a dictionary, answering comprehension questions, and playing a fun comprehension game called "Tink" (for Tinker Bell). =)

I think that covers it for this week! As always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great week!

Warmly,

Stacy Thompson