

Friday, September 02, 2011

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

If you receive the parent letter via e-mail, you are receiving it earlier than usual this time. I know I'm going to have a busy weekend, so I wanted to take care of business ahead of time! =)

We have completed our first Imagine It! Benchmark Assessment, which is something I'll administer 4 times this year. This is not a test that goes in the grade book, it is just something for you and I to look at to monitor growth. I am approximately half-way through DIBELS testing. Once I have it completed, if you'd rather me share the results right away rather than waiting until conference time, just let me know. As I've mentioned earlier, if I see anything of great concern, I will contact you.

The Imagine It! Lesson Assessment for the week of September 6th is titled "The Elves and the Shoemaker." Please be sure to re-read this story with your child on Wednesday evening.

In writing/Shurley English, we will learn capitalization and punctuation rules. We will also begin a writing project, utilizing all the steps of the writing process. Our topic will be "Places Where We Show Kindness."

In Riggs Spelling, we will begin Spelling Lists. We will begin reviewing words on Tuesday, with our first test on Friday the 9th. We will be testing over 3-4 words every day beginning Friday. A set of Spelling Lists will come home on Tuesday in your child's binder so that you may study with your child at home if you'd like. Otherwise, we do plenty of review in class.

In science, we will wrap-up our unit on the Water Cycle. I feel like the kids have really learned a lot, and we've had a great time making our water cycle bracelets and completing experiments related to evaporation and condensation. We'll have a test over the Water Cycle on Friday, September 9th. We will study plenty in class, but a study guide is in your child's binder if you'd like to study at home, too. We will begin our next unit of study, which is Magnetism, but making a **KWL** chart, which lists what we **Know**, what we **Want** to know, and eventually what we've **Learned**.

In history, we will wrap-up our study of the Americas and geographical terms, and move into an exciting unit on the Constitution. We will learn about the causes of the Revolutionary War, the difficulties facing the new nation after the war, the disorder of American society in the 1780s, and that America needed laws that everyone would obey.

In math, we will add two-digit numbers with a sum greater than 100, represent numbers using base ten blocks, work subtracting 3 problems, and identify the place value of a digit in a three-digit number.

In Core Knowledge Poetry, we will read and discuss the poems "Bed in Summer" and "Seashell."

I hope you all have/had (depending on when you read this!) an enjoyable and safe Labor Day weekend!

Warmly,
Stacy Thompson