



# Fridge Notes



Conferences begin this week. If you have not already turned in the yellow pre-conference form that went home last week, please turn it in sometime this week before your conference time. The students have been working hard to set learning goals and prepare for their student-led part of the conference. I'm looking forward to meeting with each of you and sharing all the growth I've seen over these past couple of months. I will send a friendly reminder email the day before your conference, but if you need to reschedule, just let me know.

Our field trip to see the ballet performance of *Snow White* is next Friday, October 18th. We will leave school around 9:30 for the 10:15 show. We will return for lunch. Permission slips from Mrs. Dieter will be sent home soon. Please return them as soon as possible. Unfortunately, due to limited seating in the Bob Carr, we will not be taking any parent chaperones. ☹️

Congratulations to last week's Principal's Award winner, Tyson!

**Important Dates**  
Friday, October 18-  
Ballet Field Trip

## READING

This week in reading we are going to focus on identifying the main topic in informational texts. We will also zoom-in to find the main focus of particular sections of text. Main idea can be one of the trickiest comprehension skills in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Many students can easily tell you details from a story, but most have a difficult time determining the main idea. As you are reading at home, help your child identify the main idea. If your child keeps pointing out details, guide him/her to the main idea by asking "What do all these details have in common?"

Our phonics skill this week will be final consonant blends (-nd, -ng, -nk, -ft, -xt, mp) like in the words jump and bank. For vocabulary, we will work on prefixes. I LOVE teaching morphology and showing students how you can build and change words. It is one of the best ways to expand vocabulary!

## MATH

On Monday we will review what we have learned about place value in order to prepare for our test on Tuesday. We will kick-off Chapter 3 on Wednesday, which is all about addition and subtraction strategies! Most 2<sup>nd</sup> graders already understand the concepts of addition and subtraction, but we are really focusing on strategies and tricks that will help them increase their automaticity, such as doubles facts, near doubles facts, tens friends and flip flop facts. We will also work on fact families to show how addition and subtraction are related. You can find cheap sets of addition and subtraction flashcards at the Dollar Store to help your child practice math facts at home. The goal is for students to leave 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with all of their addition and subtraction facts to 20 completely memorized (response rate of less than one second) so they are ready for multiplication in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

## WRITING

The students have been learning how to differentiate between singular noun and plural nouns. They know that for most nouns, you simply add -s to the end to make it plural. This week we learn about some other important plural rules. If the noun ends in s, x, ch, or sh, then we add -es to the end (ex: box/boxes). Similarly, if the word ends with y, then we change the y to i and then add -es (ex: baby/babies). We will also learn about irregular plurals (ex: child/children, mouse/mice).

This week we will move on to the editing phase of the writing process with our narrative stories. We will be "editing COPS" ready to "arrest" any mistakes in these 4 areas: Capitalization, "Out Loud" Quality, Punctuation or Spelling. I will be conferencing with each student to help them "investigate" their writing.

## SOCIAL STUDIES & SCIENCE

We had our first STEM Lab last week and it went right along with our weather unit! The students had to design a strong house for the 3 Little Pigs that could survive in a severe weather situation, such as a tornado or earthquake. Thank you to Mrs. Highfield, Mrs. Tryon and Mr. and Mrs. Tamburrelli for helping out! This week we will learn more about the different types of severe weather. We will discuss what we need to do be prepared and stay safe, including what items we should have in an emergency kit.

Our STEM Lab put us a little behind, so this week we will explore the effects of the sun's energy and introduce the water cycle. The students will learn the terms evaporation, precipitation, and condensation, which are a great vocabulary words to listen for at home during TV. weather reports.