



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

January 2<sup>nd</sup> - January 6<sup>th</sup>

It's 2017 and we are back and ready to learn! Hopefully all of our brains are well-rested and re-energized. I'm so excited for a new year of exploration and growth!

Many parents comment on the jump in work and expectations that occurs around this time of year in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. You may notice that the difficulty of the material increases in order to prepare the students for the transition to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I know that all our students are well-prepared for the work ahead and that they will continue to grow and have fun learning. In other words, do not fear! ☺ If, however, you ever have a concern that your child is beginning to struggle, please do not hesitate to contact me or schedule a conference.

Congratulations to our last two Principal's Award winners, Sydney and Rayan!

## Important Dates

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>-  
PTA Meeting

Mon, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>- Tues, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>-  
MAP Testing

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>-  
Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night

Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>-  
Sea World Field Trip  
Report Cards

## Reading/ Language Arts

All year long we have been learning how to ask and answer questions as we read. This week, we will focus on the TYPES of questions we are asking and answering. We will learn the difference between a "thin" question (answer is right there in the text) versus a "thick" question (requires additional thinking beyond the text). We will sort our questions and discuss how "thick" questions help us grow as readers. Our story this week falls under the mystery genre, so we will be secret agent detectives searching for text evidence to answer our questions.

Our phonics skills will be compound words and words with the schwa vowel sound (along, happen, dragon). A schwa sound occurs in 2 syllable words where one syllable is softer and the vowel doesn't make the long sound or the short sound.

In writing, we will use the mystery book *Secret Agent Splat* to inspire our own mystery narrative stories. We will use a story map to brainstorm all the pieces of a good mystery, such as suspects, and clues.

## Math

In math, we are kicking off the new year with a new unit! Chapter 6 will focus on adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. We will use a variety of strategies, including models and pictures, mental math and paper-and-pencil. We will also transfer our knowledge of regrouping from 2-digit numbers over to these larger numbers.

## Science & Social Studies

This week in science we will be exploring life cycles and will make "sprouts houses" to observe the beginning stages of a plant. We will also read about the unique life cycles of other plants and animals.