



2nd Grade News

January 8th- January 12th

It's 2018 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 2nd grade. You may notice that the difficulty of the material increases in order to prepare the students for the transition to 3rd 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.

Important Dates

January 15th-
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School

January 18th-
Curriculum Night

January 19th-
Report Card

Reading/ Language Arts

This week we will kick off a new literature unit by focusing on story structure in a folktale. We will describe story elements and how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action. Here are some questions you can ask your child when reading together at home:

- *What happens at the beginning of the story? (Characters are introduced and described, the setting is made clear, and the problem the main character will face is alluded to.)*
- *What happens in the middle of the story? (Most of the story occurs here. The main character faces a problem or dilemma, and either the character takes action or events occur to resolve the problem.)*
- *What happens at the end of the story? (The problem is resolved or the main character learns a lesson, and the story draws to a close.)*

Our phonics skill will be short vowel base-words where you double the final consonant before adding the -ed and -ing endings (*clapped, swimming, dropped, etc.*)

In writing, we will be writing narrative stories in response to literature.

Math

Our new math unit focuses on measuring length in customary units. We will begin by estimating and measuring to the nearest inch. The students will use inch models (tiles) before moving on to actual rulers. This helps develop the concept of an inch, which is actually the space between the lines on a ruler, not the lines themselves. This idea is often missed if we jump straight to rulers. It also provides the students with a visualization of what an inch looks like, which helps them make more accurate estimations.

Science & Social Studies

In science, we are starting a new unit all about weather! We will make a "schema" file folder to review what we already know about weather and what we would like to know more about. We will study weather patterns (seasonal changes) and different types of weather, and discuss ways we can prepare for severe weather. We will even act like meteorologists by charting the daily weather using real meteorology symbols.