

Second Grade Gazette

October 2009

October is here already!

The students have adjusted well to second grade, and we are in full swing. We have many fun activities planned for this month! Here are some of the highlights:



Reading

In reading this month, we will be learning about "schema," or background knowledge. Schema is all the stuff that is already inside our heads, like places we've been, things we've done, books we've read—all the experiences we've had that make up who we are and what we know and believe to be true. We will learn about text-to-self-connections, text-to-text connections, and text-to-world connections. The schema language we will use is:

*When I read (or heard) this...it reminded me of....

*When I saw the pictures of... it made me think of....

When children use their schema, it helps them use what they know to

better understand and interact with text.

We are also working on finding the beginning, middle, and end of stories. Students are learning to turn the big ideas of a story into a summary using key words like "In the beginning, next, then," etc.

To encourage and promote good reading habits, we ask that you read with your child or listen to your child read on a daily basis. Please help them to choose "just right books" (not too hard and not too easy). We are off to a good start with our "Reading Is Out of This World" program. Remember to read 100 minutes per week and return your baggie books and calendar each Monday.

At our Curriculum Night, a white envelope was included in your material. If you would like to donate a few dollars toward our "Reading Is Out of This World" program, please send the envelope back to school with your child. It will be very much appreciated. The money will cover the cost of special t-shirts and reading celebrations for those who reach their reading goal.

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Word Study

Just a reminder that children will bring home their word study lists on Fridays. The final test will be given each Thursday. Please have your child practice these words at home. Thanks for your help with this.

Math

In math this month, we will be working on Chapters 2 and 3. We will be learning about fact strategies for addition and subtraction. Some of our new vocabulary words are as follows: **count on, count back, doubles and doubles plus one.** Chapter 3 deals with **place value** and **money**. Please watch for math homework and return by the due date. Thanks!

Social Studies

Our second grade Social Studies curriculum continues to deal with communities. We are studying, drawing, and singing about where people live, work, and play in urban, rural, and suburban communities.

Science

We will be moving into our "Pebbles, Sand, and Silt" unit in science. Your child may ask for

your help in finding a rock or two to add to our classroom collection. The scientific process of observation and comparisons are utilized in this unit. We're "rocking" on in second grade!

Fall Harvest Party

Our Fall Harvest Party is scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd from 1:45-3:00 p.m. We will give the children plenty of time to get dressed for the parade/party. Please do not send your child to school dressed in his/her costume. Oak Ridge encourages non-violent costumes. We will be collecting a \$6.00 party fee, which will cover the costs for all of our second grade parties this year. We are sure to have a "boo-tiful" party!

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Team

Bottles of hand sanitizer are needed. If possible, please send one with your child. Thanks!!