



## Reading:

Each day children participate in reader's workshop. Children are learning to choose "just right" books. They are learning to use the 5 finger rule when previewing a book. (If they come across 5 words on the first page that they can't read, it is probably not a "just right" book.)

Children are also learning that we read for different reasons. Sometimes we read for enjoyment and sometimes we read to learn information. Please ask your child what kinds of books they choose to read most often.

While kids are busy reading their "just right" books, the teacher is meeting with children for one on one reading conferences, and/or in small guided reading groups. Children will practice decoding strategies and comprehension skills this year.

It's also good for children to listen to their parents read them stories. Not only is it a great way to spend quality time together, it's also an opportunity for you to model what fluent and expressive reading sounds like.

Nightly homework: Please encourage your child to read daily. Students can read independently or with a family member. All 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have an at-home weekly reading goal of 100 minutes. This takes the place of the Creekside Reading Calendar. You can do it! ☺

Mrs. Reck, Mrs. Komaromi,  
Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Luck, Miss Hager

## Writing:

Writer's workshop is up and running, and, boy, do we have enthusiastic writers! Our focus this month is writing small moments -choosing a true story idea and zooming in on one moment. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children are encouraged to choose a story that elicits a strong feeling. The strong feeling leads to stories having a "heart of the message". Children will learn to use descriptive (WOW!) words to help readers picture the story in their minds. Children will be taught the importance of re-reading and revising their writing, the importance of including relevant details, and writing in complete sentences so that readers are not left with unanswered questions.

## Power Block:

In addition to our regular daily reading instruction, 2nd graders will also spend time in a Power (Reading) Block group. Kids have been divided into reading strategy groups in order to best support their reading needs. Some kids might remain with their classroom teacher during this time, but many kids will be with a different teacher and a mix of students from all classrooms during this 30 minute block of time. Teachers and students alike are excited about this additional reading instruction.

Kids will begin in their assigned reading groups, but over the course of the school year, groups may change depending on how our readers' needs change and develop. Power Block is a fun time of day! ☺



## Math Facts Strategy Practice:

Please be sure to have your child make the flash cards each week for the math fact strategy that is sent home on Mondays. If you would like to print these flash cards out they can be found on my class website as well under curriculum documents.

Please challenge your child by asking the opposite of the fact listed (for example, if the card says  $2+3$ , you could ask them to solve  $3+2$ .) Also, challenge your child by mixing them up so they are in a new order, and starting over again. Each Friday we are taking a progressive test that covers all the strategies they have learned.



## Math:

In the month of October, we will finish our shape unit and then move into a short unit on measurement. Then we will move on to study place value. This is an important math unit that will provide a base of knowledge for future math units. Children will learn the difference between a digit and a number. They will learn how to represent numbers using base 10 blocks. Children will learn to compare numbers using greater than, less than, equal to symbols. They will also look for number patterns in sets of numbers.

## Social Studies:

Our first social studies unit is "What is a community?" Children are learning that we are part of many communities, starting with our classroom community and expanding to our school community, neighborhood community, and so on. We will explore similarities and differences between urban, rural, and suburban communities. In our next social studies unit we will learn more about how communities operate. We will learn about producers and consumers as well as goods and services.



### Important dates

- 10/3 PTO 4PM
- 10/7 No school  
Prof. dev day
- 10/11 Fun Run
- 10/31 Halloween  
Parade and Parties -  
more info soon

## Operation Nice

We recently attended our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Operation Nice" school assembly. The 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month, a mission will be displayed on the Operation Nice website. (OperationNice.ORG) Families are encouraged to visit the site and post how they completed the mission.

**\*\*Have fun and "Spread the Nice"!\*\***

## Spelling:

**Class List:** Each week your child will bring home a class spelling list with 10 words that follow a specific pattern. The purpose behind our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade spelling lists is less about memorizing the specific words, and more about recognizing patterns. Kids will learn that "if I can spell 1 word, I can spell many words." For example, once a child recognizes the /sh/ sound is spelled -sh in the word *wish*, he will recognize that he can also spell the words *dish*, and *ship*.

**Personal Words:** Each week your child will bring home 3 personal spelling words. These words are chosen by assessing children using sight word lists.

**Nightly homework:** Practice spelling words 😊