

News from Room 8 - Week of March 8

Greetings from Room 8!

Everyone seems to have settled into our school routine fairly well after the long break. The spring like weather is a special treat for us at recess; we wonder how long it will last?

Outside Recess:

Speaking of recess, your child will definitely be needing boots for the next few weeks as our playground begins to get muddy! Also, it isn't a bad idea for your child to have an extra pair of socks in his/her backpack. Mud season gets pretty messy out there...

Author of the Month:

This month we are focusing on the author John Reynolds Gardiner. He is most famous for his short chapter book called "Stone Fox", which is our current read aloud. This is a book about a boy and a sled dog race, and is full of surprises. It is the kind of book that has a lot of depth to it, so that you can have some higher level discussions.

Math:

We are in unit 8 in our Everyday Math Journals right now. This unit centers on fractions and does continue with some measurement skills. We will continue with our Minute Math practice, with a concentration on subtraction. I know that most second graders are very anxious to work on the "grown-up Math" of multiplying and dividing, but we really want kids to **master addition and subtraction facts fluently**. This means there is no reliance on fingers, math grids etc... Thanks for your continued help with this. I realize it can feel a little tedious.

Homework:

Please notice that this week I am adding a writing piece to your child's weekly homework. I will hand it out on Mondays, and expect it to come back by Friday. I am looking for a short narrative about the writing prompt- this week it is a picture of the Snoopy gang. It does not have to be overly long, but I am expecting sentences and a short story. Likewise, spelling does not have to be perfect, but should reflect your child's best attempts. My goal is to add some writing practice to your child's homework. **Please let me know your thoughts on this added homework. Is it too much? Do you want to receive it on Fridays? Should we do this every other week??**

Student –led Conferences:

As you know, this year we are trying out something new instead of the traditional Parent Conferences we have each year. We are calling May 20 “Student-led Celebrations” and this will be the day you come at a scheduled time with your child, and he/she shows you some of the learning from this year. This is our first attempt with this format, so we are obviously working on some of the details, but I just wanted to have you thinking ahead to this date.

Also, there will be a Parent Information night about this topic on March 30th at 6:30 pm at Fleming school if you are interested.

Another big night:

There will be a “Family Learning Night” at ADL on March 24th from 6:30 – 8 pm. This will be an evening of math games and reading activities for you and your child. Sounds like fun!

Other:

The Learner Characteristic form you received is due back to school by Friday, March 26th. We use this paper to help guide us when we are doing grade placements for this year, so we do look them over carefully.

I will close for now. Thank you for all of the support you continue to give your child with their learning; it makes a huge difference!

Sincerely, Sue Macmillan