

Sue Macmillan
November 2, 2009

Dear Families,

Greetings from Room 8! November is one of those months at school that always moves along so fast. We have many activities going on during these weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.

Assembly:

Our class will be taking a small part of the school-wide assembly this Thursday (Nov, 5th). Our theme is "Friendship", and Mrs. Valastro will be leading us in a song about that subject. We will also be sharing friendship posters that we are working on, with the plan to put them up around the school later in the week. If you are free to join us, the assembly begins at 8:15 in the gym.

Parent Conferences (November 23 and 24th):

I have sent home the conference times in your child's Homework folder this week. Please let me know if this time will NOT work for you; otherwise I'll assume you will meet with me at that time.

Social Studies:

Throughout this year we will be looking at our community and examining what's unique about it, we will also learn about some of the history of Essex Junction. I will be collaborating with the other 2nd grade teachers and Mrs. Cole from third grade. This unit will continue throughout the school year, rather than being "condensed" into a shorter period of time. Our first activity will be a walk around part of our town on Friday, November 13th.

We will also be learning about the first Thanksgiving and the events that led up to it, I always find that second graders are intrigued by the history and many have never really understood the meaning behind this day. I love teaching about this important part of our American history,

Featured Author:

This month we will be reading and discussing stories written by Cynthia Rylant. She has written many children's books, and is most famous for the "Henry and Mudge" series. My personal favorite is called "The Relatives Came". I hope you will enjoy a few of her books with your child this month. Most people find her writing to be very humorous and often touching.

Math:

We have started Unit 3 in our Everyday Math journals. This unit has four main areas of focus:

- to review place value in 2 digit and 3 digit numbers
- to review coin values and exchanges among coins
- to tell time and write time in digital clock notation, and
- to gather data by counting and to analyze data.

In addition, we will soon be starting "Minute Math" in class and on Math homework days. I will be sending you home more information soon, but the objective is to increase the "fluency" of addition and subtraction math facts.

Literacy:

Students are working each week in ability-based literacy groups. We meet as a small group to work on various skills such as comprehension, fluency, word attack, and inference. We are also working on listening skills.

Last thought:

As the weather continues to change, I want to remind you that your child will need weather appropriate clothing for recess. Our playground is sometimes quite windy, so make sure your child has warm layers. (I'll do my best to make sure they actually wear it! 😊)

Have a nice week; please don't hesitate to call or write me a note if you have any questions or concerns.