

November News

2009

2nd Grade



October has come and gone, and November has already arrived! Throughout the school year, newsletters such as this will be provided to keep you informed about academic lessons being taught in second grade. Each newsletter will be posted on the Highlands web page. It is our hope these newsletters will help you better understand what is expected of your child academically and how you can help him/her at home.

We enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with you earlier this year for conferences. Please keep in mind there will be no conferences when report cards are sent home later this month.

Students have received vision and hearing screenings. If there was a discrepancy in your child's test, you will be notified.

As the temperature continues to fall, please make sure children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. This will ensure their comfort while outside during recess.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2:
Grandparents' Day

November 11:
End of First Trimester
Veteran's Day Ceremony

November 18:
Report cards and supplements
sent home

November 25:
No School, *Staff Development*

November 26-27:
No School;
Thanksgiving Holiday



Reading

Through shared reading and guided reading each week students and teachers share stories repeatedly, exploring them for language, fluency, and understanding. During the first trimester additional focus has been on:

- Connecting known to new (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world)
- Creating visual or sensory images

Our focus later this month:

- Determining importance in fiction texts (identifying important parts of the text including characters, setting, problem, solution and author's message)
- Recognizing most high frequency words

Read to Succeed/Accelerated Reader

- students read a book, and are then able to take a quiz on the computer answering comprehension questions about that book
- This optional activity motivates students to read and increases awareness of comprehension



- Students are continuing to learn to use the steps of writing; prewriting-planning with story maps and webs, writing a rough draft, conferencing, editing, revising, sharing and sometimes publishing through paragraph writing
- Students are practicing writing in expressive mode during free writing time through blank books and draft notebooks

Specific areas of focus include:

- Ideas and content (choosing an interesting topic or theme, presenting a clear main idea, giving supporting details, and holding the readers' attention)
- Organization (grabbing the readers' attention, relaying details in an order that makes sense, providing an appropriate closure)

Math

Our focus in November will be demonstrating an understanding of relative magnitude and position of numbers from 0-100. This is taught through the use of a 100's chart. Students will be asked within a group of numbers which is the largest and smallest. Students will also be encouraged to view the ten frame as a useful tool when working with numbers.

Another area we will begin working on is the use of coins. In addition to naming and understanding the value of each coin, we will count different coins to a sum of \$1.00. We will



Spelling/Handwriting

Spelling is well underway:

- Phonics-based word study program that is developmentally appropriate for all students
- Pre-test and post-test given each Friday
- Students who miss one or more words on the pre-test are on the B-List the following week
- Students who get all pre-test words correct study the C-List

2nd graders learning cursive:

- Students need to learn and practice the correct formation of each letter
- Expect additional handwriting homework
- Please monitor your child as they

Science/Social Science

Science: Life Cycles

- Students have begun using their senses to make scientific observations of a class tree
- Each class will be planting pea plants and monitoring their growth and development
- We will begin monitoring our growth by measuring our height, hand-size and foot-size

Social Science

- We have continued to study communities by focusing on Naperville now
- We toured Naperville on a trolley
- Later this month we will move into how communities change over time with an emphasis on Naperville long ago