MCj03980010000[1]**Second Grade Sentinel**MCj03980010000[1]

October 7, 2011

**Second Grade Team Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to support all 21st century learners in reaching their potential, while encouraging a love for learning that will inspire a revolution.

**Open House**—Thank you to everyone that came out for Curriculum Night and Open House. We feel that it was a huge success! If you were unable to attend, please ask your student’s classroom teacher for any missed material and/or information.

**Field Trip**—Our first field trip will be on Thursday, October 27th, 2011. We will be going to see the play, “Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters”. You will receive information and a permission slip in your child’s Friday Folder today. We will be eating lunch at school. To prepare the children for this exciting trip, we will be reading Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters in our classroom.

**Homework**—As we have reviewed the first few weeks of homework, we think the students are doing a great job! Homework is a review of what we have completed in class and it should be completed by the student. Our goal for homework is to have students practice skills and become responsible for completing work on time.

Students are expected to complete a writing activity from the Think-Tac-Toes twice a week. So far, the September and October Think-Tac-Toes have only had one side of options for the students to complete their writing homework. The November Think-Tac-Toe will be double sided and include Word Work activities for the students to complete. All Think-Tac-Toes are to be completed in the students’ homework journal. We have received several questions in regards to the quality of work students are completing. While we stress the importance of quality work at school, we also ask that you encourage your child to do his or her best work at home.

**Walk to School Day**—Walk to School Day was a huge success and a wonderful time to spend with fellow schoolmates and neighbors. Thank you to all the parents who donated their time to walk with their students to school.

**Curriculum**:

* So far this year in Reader’s Workshop, we have been practicing multiple reading strategies. This includes activating our schema; making predictions before, during, and after reading a book; previewing a book by taking a picture walk; asking questions during our reading; responding to our reading in complete sentences; and making text-to-self and text-to-text connections.
* In Writer’s Workshop, we began our first quarter with writing letters in the correct letter format. Now we are moving our way through the writing process with small moment stories. For example, we will shift the focus our stories from spending the whole day at the beach to only writing about the sand castle built at the beach. The students will elaborate by using details about that one small moment.
* For Math, we have taught multiple strategies for adding and subtracting numbers. Some of these strategies include using our fingers, making a ten, and counting on. We have also learned how to make multiple equations when we know the total and partners. For example: 5+4= 9, 4+5=9, 9=5+4, 9=4+5, 9-5=4, 9-4=5, 5=9-4, 4=9-5. The students have also learned how to match the correct equation with a story problem. The first quarter of math will be a strong foundation for the more difficult math that will take place the rest of the school year.
* For Social Studies, we explored the attributes of a citizen including responsibilities, consequences, being part of a community, and volunteering.
* We have also begun our first science unit on sound. Our students have had the opportunity to compare sounds using film canisters that contain different small objects. They have created kazoos out of paper towel rolls and drums from different sized cans. We have learned that sound is created by vibrations, that sound can either be heard in a high pitch or low pitch, and that the speed of the vibrations will determine the pitch.

**Handwriting:** Please monitor your child’s handwriting at home and make sure that your child is holding their pencil correctly. Ensure that they are starting most letters from the top, down. If you have questions, please ask your child’s teacher. Second grade is the grade where students are polishing their handwriting skills and poor handwriting skills are inefficient and tiring for your child.

**Upcoming Dates:**

* Thursday, October 13—Homework Journals DUE
* Tuesday, October 18—Make-Up Picture Day
* Thursday, October 20—Homework Journals DUE
* Friday, October 21—Word Work Test
* Thursday, October 27—Homework Journals DUE
* Friday, October 28—First Quarter ends
* Monday, October 31—NO SCHOOL, Teacher Workday
* Friday, November 4—Quarter 1 Report Cards go home, Word Work Test

Thank you for all that you do! ☺

Mrs. Alexander, Ms. Boughton, Mrs. Catherwood, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Norman, Ms. Randle and Mrs. Rose

The Time is Now.