April 2012

*Spring has sprung and our second graders are bursting with energy, enthusiasm and love for new learning!*

**Reading**: We’ve recently had a lot of fun with Reader’s Theater to support fluency. The students rehearsed in small groups and then gave a performance for their classmates. We’ve also been working on introducing testing as a genre, practicing as a class, with a partner and then independently in order to begin with the end in mind for the testing that will take place the first week after spring break. Ask your child about RUNNERS which is an acronym for the test taking strategies we’ve learned.

**Writing**: The students have been writing personal narrative “small moment” stories. While in the midst of all this wonderful writing practice, they have been studying the writing of various children’s book authors to use as models and inspiration for their own writing. We’ve looked closely at great beginnings, dialogue, descriptive words and details that help the reader become immersed in the story.

**Math:** Your child has been learning geometry, problem solving and multi-digit addition with grouping and ungrouping. You can support this at home during homework time by carefully studying the parent math letters we send home so that when you help your child you are using the same language and methods that are taught in class. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have questions. Fluency or instant recall of basic math facts is also important. Flash cards practice continues to be a great way of helping your child with mastery this important skill.

**Science:** We just completed our weather unit. Your child learned all about precipitation, temperature, wind, wind speed, air, air pressure, cloud types: stratus, cumulous, cirrus. They also learned about the tools that a meteorologist might use: anemometer, thermometer, barometer, rain gauge and wind vane.

**Social Studies:** We studied some basic geography such as mountains, plains, rivers, coasts, bays, gulfs, lakes, islands and more. We are starting a unit on economics.

* **Important Dates**-
* April 12th – Report Cards go home
* April 18th and 20th 11:15-12:40 Lemonade Stand; 12:40-2:30 Leadership Day Practice
* April 19th 11:15-1:00 Leadership Day Lemonade Stand
* April 19th – Leadership Day (Dress for Success)
* April 27th – Early Release (at 12:30)
* May 4th – Celebrate Success
* May 22nd and 23rd – “Get Buggy” in-school field trip