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

January 13, 2012

**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.

**2nd Quarter Conferences**—Conferences in 2nd quarter are optional, unless your teacher requests one. Thank you for letting your individual teacher know if you would like to conference, as we do appreciate your support and open communication!

**Report Cards** – 2nd Quarter report cards will be sent home in brown envelopes in Friday Folders on January 27th. Please keep the report card at home and return the envelope *signed*. We will use these same envelopes for report cards all year.

**International Day! – Jan. 20th**— Students will be given the opportunity all day to participate in a variety of stations and presentations about China. The stations are as follows: Craft (coloring and designing a dragon), face painting (dragon, lantern, or Chinese symbol on children's faces), Museum (supervising children as they examine Chinese artifacts), Dragon Affinity (children will be writing on sticky notes either their schema or reflections of what they've learned), and Video (monitoring the computer to play and restart a Chinese informational video).

**Curriculum**:

* During Reader’s Workshop, we began exploring the five types of text structures: description, compare and contrast, sequence of events, cause and effect, and problem and solution. While analyzing these various types of text structures, we will begin to investigate how identifying the type of the text structure aids the reader to recognize patterns within the text and anticipate the way information will be presented. In addition to text structures, we will also formulate inferences for unfamiliar words, develop high-level questions about new information, and utilize various strategies, such as, inferring, using evidence within the text, and utilizing outside resources to find answers to their own questions.
* In Writer’s Workshop, we have continued on with our Non-Fiction writing. We are now learning how to give clear detailed directions on how to do/make something. For instance, some students might write a how-to-book on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, or how to do a summersault. Students will be given the opportunity to conference with partners, edit, and revise their piece to make sure it makes sense, that all the steps are in sequence, and that it is detailed enough so that the audience does not get confused.
* For Math, we have finished up our 2nd quarter assessments as well as our unit 5 on double-digit addition. We will begin learning how to tell time to the 5-minute intervals. It is critical for students to know how to draw a short hand and long hand on the clock, and which to say first when writing down the time. While some students may have already mastered this skill, a stretch goal for them would be to learn how to tell time to the minute and solve problems with elapsed time (8:00-10:30, or 8:45-9:30). Additionally, we have been reviewing how to answer questions about the calendar (day of the week, date, month) as well as how to complete function tables.
* In Science, we have created a grade level science fair project. We asked the question, “Which diaper has the best absorbency?” Each class created a hypothesis, conducted background research, and tested 7 different types of diapers. We then discussed our results and came up with individual class conclusions. Each class will be comparing their data with the other 2nd grade classes during the science fair to see if our tests were reliable.

We have also begun our next unit on Changes. We will be discussing how the different types of matter can change (melting, boiling, freezing, evaporating, condensating).

**Upcoming Dates:**

* Monday, January 16—NO SCHOOL
* Thursday, January 19—Inaugural Ball at Centennial Middle School (Tickets required), Homework Journals DUE
* Friday, January 20— Second Quarter Ends, Word Work Test, International Day!
* Monday, January 23—NO SCHOOL, Teacher Workday
* Thursday, January 26—Homework Journals DUE
* Friday, January 27—Quarter 2 Report Cards go home

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.