Quarter Three Newsletter  
Second Grade Team

Language Arts

Reading/Writing:
Our reading and writing program consists of individual, small group and large group instruction. Students will continue to read books of their own choosing on a daily basis, and listen to accomplished readers read aloud. They continue to spend time daily reading to themselves and to partners. In addition to guided reading lessons, students participate in guided writing instruction. They continue to participate in weekly reading and writing conferences. Students will continue to implement punctuation and capitalization in their daily writing. They will be responsible for demonstrating an understanding of text through a variety of responses and focusing on main idea and key information while reading, writing, and listening. We will concentrate on the content of student’s writing. Students will begin to organize their thoughts into meaningful sentences and put the sentences in paragraph form. They will be expected to extend their writing by using “sight and sound words” and by adding details and creativity. They will be responsible for rereading their writing to revise and edit to be sure that their writing makes sense and that their capitalization and punctuation are correct. They will also continue to use a variety of spelling resources such as their Quick Word dictionary and other sources. They will be working on a variety of themes and units including Non-fiction, Fiction, President’s Day, Monarchs and Milkweed, Biographies, and African American History.

Handwriting:
Students are continually encouraged to use good penmanship. We will continue to practice using correct spacing and letter formation.

Mathematics

During the third quarter, students will work on extending their understanding of fractions, measurement, number concepts and addition and subtraction to 99. They will work to learn the following skills:
- Represent halves, thirds, and fourths using region, set, and measurement models
- Represent halves, thirds, and fourths using fraction notation
- Connect fraction notation for halves, thirds, and fourths with their word names and concrete/pictorial models
- Compare unit fractions using the same size whole for halves, thirds, and fourths using words (greater than, less than, equal to) and symbols (>, <, =)
- Explain that the denominator represents the number of parts in a whole
- Explain that the numerator tells how many pieces you have and the denominator tells the size of those pieces
- Estimate and measure length to the nearest centimeter and inch
- Identify objects whose lengths are greater than or less than one foot and greater than or less than one yard
- Estimate and measure weight/mass (using pounds, ounces, kilograms, and grams) and liquid volume (using cups, pints, quarts, gallons, and liters)
- Read, write, and identify three-digit numerals
- Use models to compose and decompose three-digit numbers
- Represent whole numbers on a number line
- Round three-digit numerals to the nearest hundred and ten
- Compare two whole numbers between 0 and 999 using symbols and words
- Order up to six whole numbers between 0 and 99
- Extend understanding of equality and inequality to work with larger values
- Find the sum of two whole numbers whose sum is 99 or less
- Add three or more one- or two-digit numbers whose sum is 99 or less
- Find the difference of two whole numbers, each of which is 99 or less
- Solve and create one- and two-step addition and subtraction story problems with sums to 99 or less
- Estimate sums and differences
- Identify whether an answer to an addition or subtraction problem is reasonable

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Science
Students will begin a unit of study entitled Monarchs, Milkweed and Mexico. As they learn about butterflies, milkweed and Mexico they will investigate the relationship between plants and animals. Students will learn about the changes plants and animals experience as the seasons and weather changes. Students will learn about the life cycle of the milkweed plant, butterflies, frogs and the white-tailed deer. They will compare and contrast these life cycles and consider how animals use camouflage as they face dangers in their lives. Students will make connections between what they already know and what they learn about monarchs, milkweed and Mexico. Our Science program continues to be integrated into other content areas such as language arts through the use of trade books and writing.

Social Studies
Social Studies for the third quarter includes instruction on two famous European explorers: Christopher Columbus and Christopher Newport. Students will describe how the contributions of Christopher Columbus and Christopher Newport changed the lives of Americans. Students will also begin learning about famous Americans like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin whose contributions improved the lives of other Americans. Students will explore economic concepts and describe resources (natural, human and capital); they will distinguish between barter and use of money and explain that scarcity requires people to make choices about producing and consuming goods and services. Our Social Studies program continues to be integrated into other content areas such as language arts through the use of trade books and writing.

Quarter 3 Upcoming Events
- **February 6**: Teacher Workday, no school for students
- **February 7**: 3rd Quarter Begins
- **February 16**: Quarter 2 Report Cards Go Home; PTO Sponsored Dominos Pizza Spirit Night
- **February 20**: Presidents' Day Holiday, no school
- **March 2**: Read Across America Day
- **March 9**: Interim Progress Reports Go Home
- **March 15**: Math and Science Steam Fair
- **March 16**: PTO Sponsored Dominos Pizza Spirit Night
- **March 20**: PTO Meeting
- **March 23**: Grade 2 Music Program
- **March 24**: Staff Development Day, No School for students
- **April 7**: Quarter 3 ends - 2 hour early release for students
- **April 10-14**: Spring Break
- **April 17**: Student Holiday

Home/School Connections & Reminders
- Every student should read at home for at least **15 - 20 minutes each night**. Parents are encouraged to read with their children. Please remember to have your child complete the reading log calendar in his/her go home folder.
- It is a great idea to have your child keep an **extra jacket or sweater** in his/her backpack. Also, keeping an **extra set of clothes** in there is very helpful.
- To enrich and enhance your child’s learning experiences at home, don’t forget to access our Portaportal page on the school website; this list provides links to websites you may find useful. This could be helpful to those looking for "extra homework".