

Mrs. Coronado's Second Grade Newsletter



Arapahoe Ridge Elementary

November 2013

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Important Dates

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| Nov 11 | Veteran's Day- No School |
| Nov 15 | Book order due! |
| Nov 27 | Comp Day NO SCHOOL for students |
| Nov 28-29 | Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL |

Writing

In writing we have been examining the elements and structure of a letter. We have read many different types of letters. We have compared the differences and similarities to notes and letters. We have also written a letter. As a class will be doing an author study with Cynthia Rylant books. Once we have read a variety of her works, we will have the students write a letter to that author and express their opinions and ask her questions. Students will practice writing other letters on their own with a clear purpose and audience.

Students are also continuing to write stories about their lives in their free writing journals. We have generated an editing checklist to help them with publishing their stories.

Reading

In reading we will be meeting with your child individually and setting reading strategy goals with them based on their reading needs. These goals are centered on **C**omprehension, **A**ccuracy, **F**luency, or **E**xpanding Vocabulary. This one-on-one conference will help them know what to focus on as they read independently and with a partner. We will meet with them on a regular basis, so their goals may stay the same for a period of time or they may change base on their progress. We are also meeting with your child in reading groups daily or every other day and are focused on a specific strategy that has been modeled for them. When they are reading at home to you, ask your child what their goal in reading is and what reading strategy the class is working on. Have them practice this strategy while they are reading with you.

Library

Your child checks out books from the library on a regular basis. Please help your child remember their books and also help them find a good place at home to keep them so they do not get lost. Thank you!

Math

We just finished Unit 3. It reinforced and extended topics introduced in First Grade Everyday Mathematics. We focused on four main areas:

- To review place value in 2-digit and 3-digit numbers.
- To review coin values and exchanges among coins.
- To tell time and to write time in digital-clock notation.
- To gather data by counting and to analyze data.

To support students telling time at home, make sure they can access an analog clock and use this little poem that we recite often in class:

*Short, little hour hand moves so slow,
Read it first and the hour you'll know.
Long, tall minute hand moves quite fast,
Count by fives and read it last.*

In Unit 4, addition and subtraction number stories are used as a vehicle for developing mental arithmetic skills. The unit ends with work on pencil-and-paper strategies. We will be working on:

- Change-to-more number stories
- Parts-and-Totals diagram
- Temperature changes
- Estimating costs
- Ballpark estimates
- Partial-sums addition

Estimating is the most difficult concept in this unit. Practice having your children estimate to the nearest ten. This will help them as we learn ballpark estimate and partial-sums addition.

Fact Triangles

It is very important in second grade for the children to know their addition and subtraction facts quickly. This will help them when we get into double digit and triple digit problems. Please make sure they practice their math facts at least twice a week.

Social Studies

In conjunction with our science unit on Earth movements, we will be making a brochure of various examples of erosion in Colorado. We will be locating these sites on various maps. This will be a great link to our next Social Studies unit: geography (which will start in January). To help kick-off our geography unit we will be doing an interactive project with the book Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. We will be sending home a note explaining this activity. It will be in the Friday folder November 22nd!

Science

In science we are exploring earth movements. We are observing what causes the changes on the Earth. This includes changes caused by water, wind and man. Here is a list of the vocabulary that your child will be learning within this unit:

erosion
landform
weathering
flow
flood
slope

We are also using the scientific process to help us with our experiments. They are making predictions and making observations and coming up with a conclusion at the end. The students are very excited about this unit and are doing a great job at being little scientists!

Spelling

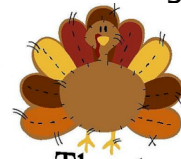
In second grade we have decided to change our approach on how we teach spelling. Our main objective in spelling is to make sure that spelling the words correctly transfers into their writing. So we have been researching and found a program called "Making words" that focuses on the spelling patterns and the rules behind each pattern. **This means that we will not be giving spelling test anymore but instead we will be taking a spelling grade from the journal writing. This also means that a list of words will not be going home each week.** Attached is an explanation of the program and the research behind it. If you have any questions please feel free to email me. Thank you for your support!

Conferences

Thank you for attending conferences. The bridge between home and school is imperative for students to be successful in school. It was great sharing all of the wonderful progress your children have made and our goals for the year!

Happy Thanksgiving

I hope you and your family have a lovely holiday. Enjoy every moment together as you reflect on what you are most grateful for.



Happy Thanksgiving