



*February Newsletter*  
*Grade 2- Mrs. Whitehead*

*Dear Parents,*

*The year is flying by! We are over the halfway mark for the year. This is a critical time of year in the education process. The winter doldrums set in and the children are ready for a vacation...and spring! It's important to reinforce and review your expectations for your child as a student. They seem to forget rules and procedures that were fairly well established.*

**Character Education** - *In the classroom, I find the students are squabbling more. Along with this come more tattling and hurt feelings.*

*It is a good time to discuss our February word of the month-**tolerance**. While this concept encompasses the struggles our country has faced in providing equal rights for all, it also refers to how we treat each other on an individual basis. One of the students referred to it as "treating others the way you want to be treated."*

**Homework-** *Please remind your child to put his or her name on the paper. Many assignments are turned in with no name. I cannot give the student credit.*

*Also, please remind your child to turn in their homework. I remind them daily, but you'd be surprised how often I find it in a desk or in their folder.*

*Please stress effort and neatness with your child. Some work is being turned in that does not reflect a student's best effort.*

*Finally, help your child to understand that homework must be done on time! (I understand extenuating circumstances occur and many of you have sent notes, which is fine.) However, some students are turning in work days or weeks late.*

**Reminders-**            **February 8th-** Book selection due for biography project  
**February 11th-** Valentine Party (see later in newsletter)  
**February 12<sup>th</sup>-** EFS Reading with Our Buddies

Students will once again have the opportunity to read to and with a fifth grade buddy from Mrs. Camara's class. They really enjoyed this time before Christmas and are looking forward to doing it again.

**February 26th-** Mardi Gras 6:00-8:00 pm  
Rough draft due for biography project

**Junior Achievement-** *Beginning February 4th, our class will be participating in the Junior Achievement program. Our class is fortunate to have Mrs. Motta, a local banker, as our volunteer. The program for the second grade is about community. It discusses community workers, goods and services, and how money travels through a community. It also explores manufacturing. Is it more productive for a worker to make a product from beginning to end or is it more efficient to employ an assembly line approach? Your child will let you know after he “makes the donuts”.*

*This program correlates with the Massachusetts State Frameworks and the second grade curriculum.*

### **Subject Notes-**

**Reading-** *Skills being addressed include:*

**Phonics-** *consonant and –le; vowels /oo/ and /u/ as in flute; vowel diphthongs /oi/ and /oy/, /ou/ and/ow/ spellings; and vowels /oo/, /ue/ and /ui/*

**Grammar-** *Word structure including comparative and superlative endings, prefixes and suffixes*  
*Adjectives –sensory words*

**Comprehension** – *Specific skills addressed include plot and theme; story structure; comparing and contrasting stories or genres; fact and opinion and summarizing*

**Vocabulary Development-** *One area that all the children can develop further is that of vocabulary. Luckily, this is an area that parents can really help with at home. Currently, we are working on using adjectives to improve our writing.*

*When a child uses a word such as big, thing or nice, repeat or echo what they have said, but substitute another more specific word.*

**For example:** Mom, look at the big tree by the house.

**Say:** That towering tree makes the house look like a miniature doll house. The idea is to replace words with words have a similar meaning. Another idea is to sprinkle idioms or figures of speech into your conversations. Your child will probably laugh or ask what you mean. Either way, it opens up the opportunity for more language.

This is **so** important because a child usually only uses vocabulary in a story that he is comfortable speaking.

**Math-** The students continue to work on the chapter on money. They are expected to be able to count various coin and dollar combinations using all of the coins. Students also need to be able to determine whether that combination is enough to purchase a given item and tell how much change or how much more they would need. We will continue to practice these skills at calendar time this year. Please continue working with your child on this important life skill.

We will begin addition of two digit numbers after vacation . This includes addition with regrouping. Children have also been practicing estimating sums of these numbers. Practice this skill at the store.

Example: apple- 45 cents is close to 50 cents

Banana- 27cents is close to 30 cents

You need **about** 80 cents to buy both items.

**Language-** In second grade, the goal in writing is to write a solid, well developed paragraph. This includes a topic or main idea sentence; details that develop the topic in a sequential manner; and a conclusion or wrap up sentence that relates to or restates the main idea. Vocabulary development, sentence structure and language mechanics are also important elements. Attached to this newsletter is the rubric used by all second grade teachers when we evaluate a student's writing.

**Thank you** for your contributions. The Kleenex and antibacterial wipes and wash have been put to use already! Lately, the students have been using about a box of tissues in one day.

**Valentine's Day-** We will have a small celebration on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to donate juice boxes, napkins, brownies or cookies, etc. It is not necessary for everyone to send in something. If I know ahead, we can plan more effectively.

*The students may bring in cards that week. Again, please do not label the envelopes as delivery is so time consuming! Please do not send cards until the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!*

**Field Trip-** *Thank you to those parents who served as chaperones on our field trip. The students seemed to enjoy it. There was so much to see and do! They wrote some interesting reports about the science museum by writing as though the museum was describing itself. One student even wrote, " Make sure you stay with your chaperone."*

***Have a wonderful, winter vacation!***

