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Second Grade Orientation Packet

“It’s all about the learning!”

Tuesday, August 31, 2010
6:00pm

Mrs. Michele Hibl
Ms. Fran Gonis
Mrs. Robin Marshall
Mrs. Judy Walden

Second grade is an exciting year. We see a lot of growth during this year. We believe the parents' biggest surprise in second grade is the amount of work and the expectation of independent work. Please communicate with your child's teacher if your child is feeling overwhelmed or frustrated. We will address the whole child and make this a very FUN and challenging year for each child.

By the end of the year, we hope that most students are reading chapter books and completing written responses about their reading. They are also expected to be reading a variety of materials. Students are expected to sustain independent writing. They also need to be able to revise and edit their own work.

In social studies, they will be reading, organizing and sharing information about culture, resources, communities, geography, and traditions in Louisville, China and India.

In science the students will not only be conducting experiments, but they will be organizing their information. The students will use their reading and writing skills to explain scientific concepts as well as explain how this information connects to everyday life. Our three units are insects, weather and liquids and solids. We will also be studying health, wellness and making good choices with our bodies and behaviors.

We are utilizing three resources in math; Investigations, Addison-Wesley and Add-vantage math. The students will play games to enhance their learning as well as complete pencil and paper activities. By using a variety of strategies, students will demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts.

In second grade, we merge two different spelling systems. We will be teaching your children many different spelling and phonics rules. They will also have a list of 128 high frequency words. Most of these words do not fit typical rules and need to be memorized. The high frequency words will need to be practiced at home. Thank you for your support.

Second Grade

Snacks: Second grade does have an afternoon snack time. We encourage our students to eat a healthy breakfast and all of their lunch. The snack should be a small, quick bite to eat.

Music/P.E.: The children will alternate Music and P.E. each day. If they have P.E. on Friday, then they will have Music on Monday. Both P.E. and Music classes require a lot of movement for participation. Please help your child to dress appropriately or bring tennis shoes in their backpacks.

Homework: Homework will go home on Fridays. We expect it to be completed, **checked and signed by parents**, and returned by the next Friday. We will start homework on September 3rd. The homework is a review of the skills being taught in class. If you feel like your child needs extensions, please check the 2nd grade website as well as the attached website page for ideas. The homework should take between 25-35 minutes each night. Your child is expected to read 15-20 minutes, 5 nights a week.

Art: The students will have art once a week with Mr. Cummings.

Recess: We will send the students out to play almost every day, so please dress your child appropriately for the weather. **Students must have notes stating health reasons in order to stay inside during recess.** Children may bring balls and/or jump ropes, but **NO TOYS**. Please make sure to label the balls with your child's name.

Lunch: The cost of lunch this year is \$2.75. Students will not be allowed to charge lunches. A district lunch menu calendar was sent home for the year. A great way to pay for lunch is through the direct deposit program or to bring in a check/cash at the beginning of the week instead of worrying about it each day. Also, each child needs to know their own student ID number for their lunch. Please help your child memorize their number.

Supplies: Some supplies do not last all year. Please check in with your child from time to time regarding their crayons, colored pencils, scissors, etc. We appreciate **ALL** the supplies you provided at the beginning of the year. Your generosity is wonderful!! The \$35 donated will cover field trips, special celebrations, and other supplies needed in the classroom.

Pets: BVSD has a policy discouraging animals in school. We're sorry that pets will not be allowed to visit the classroom.

Transportation: Be sure your child knows where to go when school lets out. Students need a note to go home with a friend on the bus. Please make after school plans in advance.

Birthdays: Birthday celebrations at school are optional. Students may choose to celebrate their birthdays by bringing treats, pencils and/or donating a book to the classroom or library in their name. Please send the treats in **individual portions**; do not send a cake. Contact your classroom teacher in advance to arrange a time. Students with summer birthdays may also contact the teacher for a time to celebrate their birthday.

Take-Home Folders: Student's work and school/classroom notices will be sent home in a folder on most Fridays. Please hold your child responsible for bringing home their folder. After you have looked through the folder, please keep the papers, sign the folder and return it to school by the next school day. Your child will turn it in to their teacher.

Toys: Toys are not allowed at school.

Show and Tell: We do not have a scheduled show and tell in second grade. We may ask students to bring in special items related to our curriculum during some units.

Field trips and driving: We will be taking several field trips by car this year. (NCAR, Louisville, Butterfly Pavilion, Walden Ponds) Colorado State Law mandates that children 8 and under must ride in booster/car seat. Please send a car seat/booster to school on field trip days so that your child may participate.

Communication: starting in September, we will use our 2nd grade website as a way to keep you informed about what is happening. Email and phone calls are also used.

Second Grade Curriculum Schedule 2010-2011

August	Assessments (writing, math, spelling) Classroom and School routines Community Number Sense
September	Fables Fiction reading and writing Number sense and place value Reading assessments/reading groups Community Louisville walking field trip Box City Parent Teacher Conference

October	<p>Weather study Eye Study and dissection Measurement and Geometry Math strategies and problem solving Writing stories, adding details, wondrous words Halloween party and parade</p>
November	<p>EFAA Community Service Project Fractions, Time and Money Field Trip to NCAR Weather study Veteran's Day Revising and Editing of writing drafts</p>
December	<p>Math Strategies and Problem Solving Probability China Winter Holiday party Paragraph writing</p>
January	<p>China Computation (+ and -) Addition and subtraction facts to 20 Math strategies and problem solving Martin Luther King Research about Chinese inventions</p>
February	<p>Chinese New Year Celebration Multi-digit addition and subtraction Math strategies and problem solving Valentine's Day Party Research about Chinese inventions Parent Teacher Conferences</p>
March	<p>Author study Health unit Multi-digit addition and subtraction Math strategies and problem solving India Poetry</p>
April	<p>India India celebration Insects Butterfly Pavilion Field Trip Introduction to multiplication and division Math strategies and problem solving Letter writing</p>

May
Insect study
Insect research, poster and presentation
Memory books
Field Trip to Walden Ponds
2nd grade celebration at Cottonwood Park
Multiplication and division

HABITS OF MIND

“At Coal Creek Elementary, the faculty places a premium on our greatest natural resource, the human mind. We have an inherent faith that all people can continue to improve their intellectual capacities throughout life; that learning to think is as valid a goal for the “at-risk” or disadvantaged student as it is for the “gifted and talented,” and that all of us have the potential for even greater creativity and intellectual power.

In our efforts to honor thinking, our teachers are not only interested in how many answers students KNOW, but also in knowing how to behave when they DON’T know. **We believe that intelligent, thoughtful behavior is performed in response to questions and problems the answers to which are NOT immediately known.** We are interested in how students PRODUCE knowledge rather than how they merely *re-produce* knowledge, because the critical attribute of “intelligence” is not only having information, but knowing how to act on it.

To this end, we believe that “thinking behaviors” can be explained, modeled, taught, and monitored for growth and evidence of use. **This is the vision of what we call, “The Mindful School.”** Based on the work of Drs. Arthur Costa, Professor Emeritus / USC, Davis, and Benna Kallick of Yale University and the University of Massachusetts, “Habits of Mind” refer to various attitudes and dispositions associated with high level thinking skills and cognitive processes that we are continually targeting for our students at Coal Creek.

The HOM is not a “canned” program; it is not something found on worksheets or can be wrapped up in an hour presentation to teachers and parents. *Rather the HOM are meant to serve as a conceptual framework to guide teacher’s planning, instruction, and assessment practices at Coal Creek.* **They are the behaviors we want to see our students evidence when we ask them to “think about” a problem.** Increasing research shows who are able to integrate these attitudes and dispositions into their thought processes demonstrate higher productivity and achievement.

Though not an exhaustive list, the following serve as the HOM we are targeting at Coal Creek:

Persistence, Listening with Empathy/Understanding, Metacognition, Questioning/Problem Posing, Thinking & Communicating with Clarity, Creating/Imagining/Innovating, Taking Responsible Risks, Thinking Interdependently, Managing Impulsivity, Thinking Flexibly, Striving for Accuracy & precision, Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations, Finding Humor, Gathering Data thru All the Senses, Responding with Wonderment and Awe, and Remaining Open to Continuous Learning.

As the educator Horace Mann said, “Habit is like a cable; we weave it every day until I cannot break.” One of our goals this year at Coal Creek is to truly surround the children with the HOM – in their studies and as part of our *Positive Behavior Plan* – so that they have opportunities throughout the day, in all areas of the school, to become better at their thinking and problem

solving skills.

Our principal, Dr. Kiemele has written and spoken about the HOM extensively in the past during his tenure at Coal Creek, and so for those of you who are familiar with this work, please know that we will continue to build on the Mindful School vision in the months ahead. For those who are new, we hope that you will find this unique approach to be helpful to your child, and that you will look for ways to reinforce the Habits in your home.”

Websites

www.coolmath-games.com

www.funbrain.com

www.coolmath4kids.com

resources.kaboose.com/games/read2.html

www.funbrain.com/brain/ReadingBrain/ReadingBrain.html

abcteach.com

www.enchantedlearning.com