

October News 2022 from Room 9

Mrs. Hoag-Mrs. Gray Second grade

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe it is October already! We are still settling into our classroom routines, making new friends, and building our classroom community. Please continue reading for classroom updates which are explained below in our newsletter.

**Reader’s Writer’s workshop:** We are slowly beginning to work with small groups on a variety of skills. During these small group instructional periods your child will be reading books at his/her reading level, and we will discuss the story, answer questions about the books to ensure students are comprehending what has been read. During this time, we focus on specific areas the students in the groups need to work on. (ex: long and short vowel, decoding, sequencing, retelling, author’s purpose, comprehension strategies). The students are enjoying our new Empowering Writers program. The children are writing in their journals to develop their “sentence of the day skills”. There are many new vocabulary words and skills to learn in the program, but they are working very hard and trying their best. We are currently identifying story elements and distinguishing the differences between narrative and informational texts.

**Fundations Phonics instruction**: In second grade we will continue with the Fundations’ phonics program. Your child has already learned many skills and trick words in Kindergarten and first grade based on this program. We started off reviewing first grade skills and we are currently wrapping up unit two on bonus letters and glued and welded sounds. “At-home” practice packets are being sent home with each unit and may be completed as part of the nightly homework. Please do not complete the entire packet in one evening. The packets help support what we are teaching in the classroom and build a foundation about the skills they are learning.

**Math:** Our second-grade mathematicians have been working on addition and subtraction review. The children are currently in our place value unit. We are learning the value of a digit and the value that numbers hold when they are in the ones, tens, and hundreds place. The children are working to master the standard, written, and expanded form of numbers. It is tricky but we are really starting to embrace it! We continue to stress that daily practice at home with math facts is very beneficial to their success in the classroom. If math facts are automated, then it makes the job of your child much easier at school. Your child won’t have to focus on counting on fingers to assist them with solving math equations and taking fact fluency assessments. Any support you can give throughout the week is greatly appreciated.

**Social Studies:** We have begun our unit on maps and globes. The students are learning about the map legend or key and the compass rose. They are excited and engaged and will continue to expand their knowledge as we begin learning about landforms, oceans, and continents.

**Responsive Classroom Lessons**: A focus, throughout the school year will still be on establishing strong relationships and building a positive, safe learning environment for your child. Through interactive modeling, the students are learning how to navigate social situations and peer relationships. Mrs. Jones is also supporting this with her new Social Emotional curriculum. Each week we engage the students in a variety of activities during our morning meetings, greetings, and energizers/activities which incorporate both learning and movement components. As always, we offer guidance and support to the children, but continue to encourage them to make the best choices based on lessons and activities that we have been doing in the classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We are off to a wonderful start in second grade, and we are looking forward to a terrific school year!

 Sincerely, Kerry Hoag and Ashley Gray