



Newsletter

Mrs. Moyer's 2nd Grade

September 15, 2016

*** Please see our Class homework policy on the next page! ***

Month at a Glance

Reading:

We started off the year reviewing short and long vowels, and are finding characters, settings, and events in fictional stories and key details in non-fiction reading to improve comprehension.

Math:

We are learning different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems, including word problems, this month. We are starting to add 3 and 4 one-digit numbers.

Writing:

Second grade is starting the year with narrative writing. Practice telling stories to each other at home, and see who can add the best details.

Social Studies

We held class discussion on being a responsible classmate, how to work in groups, and what to do if you are bullied.

Science

We have started the year with my favorite science unit – Force and Motion! We are having fun pushing and pulling toy cars up and down ramps.

Activity & Discussion Ideas

Activities:

- <http://moyerCarmen.weebly.com/> - Check out our class website! Students will find many links to help them grow their brains.
- **Read together every day!**

Discussions:

- When reading stories, discuss characters, the setting, and main things that happen in the stories.
- Create 3-5 sentence verbal stories with your children. Ask what goes first, next, and last – one sentence at for each.

Important Notes

Earbuds Needed

This year, we have more access to laptops, but we don't have near enough headphones to go with them all. As a result, Keller is asking each student to bring in a set of earbuds to keep in their desk or \$1 to purchase a set from the school. Please do this as soon as you can since our shortage is limiting some of our activities.

School Paperwork

If you have not already done so, please return your school paperwork. Contact me if you need the paperwork.

Snacks & Water Bottles

Please send a **low-sugar** snack with your child every day. Our lunch isn't until 12:10, and those without snacks get VERY hungry before then. Please also make sure your student has a water bottle to hydrate their brains.

First Field Trip

Our first field trip is **tentatively** scheduled for Friday, September 30th. We hope to go to Fountain Creek Nature Center and would love you to join us!

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
			1M	2
5	6	7	8	9
Labor Day No school				
12P	13A	14M	15P	16A
19M	20P Skate City Night	21A Fund Raiser Kick-Off	22 Field Day	23 Teacher Work Day No school
26P	27A	28M	29P	30A

Mrs. Moyer's Homework Policy

I do not believe that students in second grade should have nightly homework. Therefore, I assign very little homework. Actually, **I assign almost no homework**. Why? Read on...

Research shows that homework is ineffective, or even negative, in the lower elementary grades. It often leads to unneeded stress in many families, especially if a child struggles or has a learning disability.

Having said that, **nightly reading** is the one activity that research **shows** to be **beneficial**. I do not believe in sending home a reading log because it can turn reading into chores, kids into liars, or just not get returned. Please see my notes below on nightly reading.

Students have also asked me for math homework. I will sometimes print off some addition and subtraction practice pages for students to take home if they choose. THESE ARE **NOT REQUIRED** and do not need to be returned.

I also showed the class the many student links on our **class website** today. You will find many brain-growing activities on our site, <http://moyercarmen.weebly.com/>.

Here is what will look different at home for your child this year:

Spelling - Students will not have spelling homework.

Math - Play math fact games with your child. Students are expected to fluently know basic addition and subtraction facts (3 seconds per math fact) by the end of second grade. ***** Math fact practice should NOT cause frustration. If it does, please stop and contact me! We will find a different method for learning the same material.**

These homework changes should give your child more time to recharge and to explore the world around them. Therefore, I suggest that you:

- **Read with** or **to** your children 20-30 minutes every day and **make reading time special** to develop a love of reading and learning.

I strongly recommend that you don't force a struggling reader to read. Instead, if your child struggles, read to him or her, but ask for their help reading words. As your child's love of reading develops, your child will start reading on his/her own or asking to read to you. Again, our main goal is to develop a love of reading while we also develop the skills necessary to read. This serves them better in the long run.

- Encourage your student's curiosity and creativity by letting them **explore** and **discover** their world through play and investigation!
- Find fun ways to help your child if he or she is **struggling** in a particular area. Feel free to ask me for suggestions.
- **Occasionally**, your student will **need help** on one of our **projects**. If I have your email or you have signed up for texting, I will notify you when I send something home.

Please email or stop by after school if you have any questions,
Carmen Moyer