



SECOND GRADE WEEKLY PLANS
APRIL 10, 2017

TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN
ASSISTANT: MRS. SMITH

VIRTUE: Self-control

SAYING: Easier said than done!

Dear Parents,

History: Beginning this week, and continuing for five more Wednesdays, the second graders will be visited by two Dartmouth College students who are enrolled in the START (Students Teaching ART) Program. They will be in the classroom from 9:30 to 10:15 on Wednesdays and focus on immigration which is our final history unit. Last week, I met with Sarah, Elsa, and their supervisor, Mary Gaetz so that we could discuss topics and activities that are included in the Core Knowledge unit. I am sure that the second graders will enjoy working with them. To learn more about the program, you can visit: https://hop.dartmouth.edu/online/start_program

As evidenced by the "Crossroads Gold Rush," our current unit is "Americans Move West." I'd like to thank Bruce and Tina for sending in some merchandise for the Trading Post. I think the kids had fun trading their gold for store credit and purchasing dried fruit, sausage, cheese, bandannas, blank journals, button candy (one per customer), pickles, cookies, biscuits, pretzel rods, corn bread, and embroidery floss. It was a great math exercise as they needed to exchange their gold at \$0.50 per gram and then subtract each item on their balance sheet before making another purchase. Many students quickly learned the importance of the decimal point. \$82.50 minus 75 cents is NOT \$7.50!

Science: This week, the children will bring home their Insect Packets and unit test. Please look through it with your child. If you want us to keep it in your child's binder, just send it back. For your clarity, here are the results of that assessment: %100, 98, 98, 95, 95, 93, 92, 92, 89, 89, 87, 80, 78, 77, 77, 59. Please remember that assessments at this grade level are given for three reasons. First of all, I need feedback on my teaching and the various activities. If many children miss a specific question, I will rethink how I presented the information. Secondly, we are interested in each individual's ability to recall information and make connections; second graders learn by doing, not by studying. Lastly, taking a test is an experience that reinforces the idea that while you are school you have a responsibility to attend to the activities. The concept of needing to be actively engaged so that you can make sense of each experience is new to many of them.

Today we examined eggs that had been soaking in vinegar over the weekend. The vinegar dissolved the egg shell so that they could feel the shell membrane. They also were able to identify the yolk, blastoderm, albumin, and chalazae. Tomorrow, the fertilized eggs from my farm go into the incubator.

Reminders:

Shakespeare Day, Friday, May 5th: Later this week, you will receive information regarding this special day and the second and third graders performance of "Romeo and Juliet." I will also post a separate document on my teacher's page.

ERB Testing: Standardized testing for grades 2 – 8 will take place from May 8th – 11th. We always start promptly and the testing lasts between 60-90 minutes depending on the subject.

State Fair: Friday, May 19th. Parents should visit from 2:30 to 3:15. Check my teacher's page for more information.

Sincerely yours - Marj