



SECOND GRADE WEEKLY PLANS
FEBRUARY 27, 2017

TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN
ASSISTANT: MRS. SMITH

Virtue for March: Honesty
Saying: Where there's a will, there's a way.

Read Aloud: The City Under the Back Steps

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! I hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to spend some extra time with your children. Though I had been looking forward to a break from the routine, I found that by the end of last week I was starting to miss the kiddos. I came into school last Thursday and Friday to get everything ready for these next units so that we could hit the ground running on Monday. The children were quite talkative and rambunctious; it will probably take a bit of time and encouragement to regain focus. Please remind your child to remember to listen to others, follow directions, and work productively on assignments.

Language Arts: For the next six weeks we will be taking a break from Open Court. Instead, we will be using Junior Great Books; I have copied the introduction provided by the program and have attached it. **The program has a component that requires some adult involvement at home.** On Thursday nights for six weeks you will be asked to read and discuss the story that we are working on that week. Please refer to your child's bookmark that has all of the dates and stories listed. This week's selection is "The Red Balloon" by Albert Lamorisse. There are questions provided in the margin of the story which will help prepare your child for the "inquiry discussions" the children will take part in on Fridays. I will also be providing Post-it notes to use during your at-home conversation that will help guide your child during our discussions. Lesson 20 in Spelling was done in school this week. **There will be no spelling test; instead we are just practicing the irregular past tense verbs.**

Science: As you know, we are now studying insects. The first lessons were about classification. I told them about Aristotle's interest in grouping types of living things and how Carolus Linnaeus improved the system to create a "gigantic family tree" that is still used today. They heard that there are six kingdoms and that two of them are plants and animals. Did they hear what the other four were? Yes. Fortunately, when I gave a brief explanation on the two types of bacteria, the protists, and the fungi, they quickly lost interest. They'll be hearing more about that in fifth grade. Though by then things may be reorganized; it seems that our understanding of DNA will continue to be a game changer. I then introduced them to the words phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. I have encouraged them to learn "King Philip Came Over For Good Soup" if they'd like to. I asked Dr. Faletra if this is the acronym I should use, and he gave me the thumbs up. To make our way to the ladybugs, ants, and lice, we followed the chart to the phylum "arthropoda" (technically, this group has been divided into three subphyla: uniramia, chelicerata, and crustacea - I can barely keep up!) and then to the class "insecta". On our classroom door you can see 27 orders of insects. Here are a few facts the second graders have already learned ...

1. Spiders are not insects. 2. All bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs. 3. Some insects have a complete metamorphosis life cycle (adult, egg, larva, pupa) and some have an incomplete metamorphosis life cycle (adult, egg, nymph). 4. Insects such as ants and bees are social insects. This week they will continue to explore our large collection of insect books and will begin working on an insect packet. Eventually I will share my beekeeping equipment and my ever-expanding understanding of these amazing insects. Carolina Biological will be delivering our praying mantis egg cases this week; with luck, a pet will be coming home in June!

History: Here are some questions you could ask your child to gauge his/her understanding of what we have learned about the Civil War so far.

1. Who was the president of the United States at the time of the Civil War?
2. What was the main reason behind the fighting between the north and south sides?
3. What does this mean, "Several southern states seceded from the United States"?
4. Why was there a battle at Fort Sumter?
5. What did the local citizens do at the start of the Battle of Bull Run?

Math: Our next unit is on money. Though not part of the Math-in-Focus lessons, I will be teaching them how to make change for a dollar by counting up. OUR students will not have to rely on the register if they ever have a summer job in retail!

Other notes:

- Wednesday is "dress-up" day. This is part of Middle School's "March Madness." If your child prefers, it can be a regular spirit gear day. That's my plan.
- **Next Friday, March 10th is our performance assembly in Bancroft at 8:15. We will be presenting a special insect show during which each child will speak. We will also sing two songs from the Civil War era.**
- On Friday, March 24th we have a 12:30 dismissal, Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart, and parent-teacher conferences.

Warm regards,
Marj