



SECOND GRADE WEEKLY PLANS
JANUARY 2, 2017

TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN
ASSISTANT: MRS. SMITH

Virtues for January: Courage
Saying: Turn over a new leaf.

Read Aloud: "Brady" by Jean Fritz

Dear Parents,

I hope that you enjoyed time with your families and the break from the routines of school. Thank you for sending in party treats on December 16th. I told, "The Story of the Two Christophers" before the children opened their grab bag gifts. As is my tradition, I purchased items for the game shelf; this year the class added "Electronic Battleship" and "Hedbanz" to the collection. It is nice to have activities for indoor breaks on days that are just too cold for recess. It's now time to get back in the swing of things. We hit the ground running today and are starting the New Year with this list of new units:

History - Civil Rights Leaders: Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Cesar Chaves, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While working on this unit, we will add lots of names and dates to our classroom timeline. It helps the kids develop some perspective in terms of American history. Of course, the real objective is to look at how these individuals embodied the virtues of courage, hope, and perseverance to enact social change. They also could not have succeeded without the support of others. During morning meetings when we recite our pledges and discuss passages from world religions, I often also share quotes. Here is one from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Geography - South America: We will be studying the geography and culture of our neighbors to the south. Following the presentation of material, the children will complete ten independent activities to create a South American Portfolio. They also have a project to complete at home; you will find the details on the South American Animal Project in your child's homework folder later this week.

Math – Today we started chapter 7, "Metric Measurement of Length." The first step was to compare a meter stick and a yard stick. The children were able to quickly determine that the metric units, millimeter, centimeter, decimeter, and meter are more logical than the US standard units of inches, feet, and yards. We then estimated the length and height of objects in meters. I had to clarify the meaning of the words long and tall and how these words describe objects in either the horizontal or vertical plane. Upcoming lessons will provide practice measuring objects to the nearest centimeter.

Writing: In Writing Workshop, the children will be writing letters to friends and family members. The goals are to use the correct format, tell about recent events, share our feelings, paint a picture with words, and finally, make someone happy! Please use the index cards sent home today to provide 4-5 addresses for your child to use. As you have heard, cursive starts this week. I really am not a stickler when it comes to precise letter formation. Instead I will continue to focus on the keys to legibility which are: size, shape, spacing, and slant. I show them my “teacher-cursive handwriting” and my personal handwriting; both demonstrate these four important components. This helps me explain how they will generate their own style when they are older and have developed good control.

Please join us in welcoming Dalal to our second grade classroom. The kids are happy to have a new friend and a class of fourteen!