



SECOND GRADE WEEKLY PLANS
MARCH 20, 2017

TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN
ASSISTANT: MRS. SMITH

Virtue for March: Honesty
Saying: Practice what you preach.

Read Aloud: On the Banks of Plum Creek

Dear Parents,

Language Arts: The Junior Great Book selection this week is "How the Elephant Became" by Ted Hughes. Not all children have been following through with the three requirements to participate in the discussion which are 1. Read the Story, 2. Write a few notes on Post-its and put the notes on the corresponding pages, 3. Bring the book to school on Friday. Please check in with your youngster; I really don't like excluding children from participating. In writing workshop we are proofreading and rewriting a response to Mr. Peabody's Apples. This is a book with honesty as a theme. I will also introduce poetry-writing this week. Spelling workbook and Write-to-the-Point is due on Wednesday, test on Thursday.

History: Last Friday we finished our unit on the Civil War. We reviewed what we learned by taking a brief assessment and then talking about the answers. This assessment is in your child's homework folder. Next week we will start the next unit, "Americans Move West."

Science: We are going to look at insects that are invasive species and some indigenous insects that are pests. The kids have already read "Clouds of Terror" so they are prepared with information as we get to the section of On the Banks of Plum Creek dealing with the locust invasion. By the end of the week, I will bring in my beekeeping stuff which will include my suit, components of a bee hive, assorted beekeeping tools, honey, and some entertaining stories. Many children are finishing their insect packets. Kids who finish this week have additional creative projects on which to work.

Math: The basic addition and subtraction facts are all the combinations of 1-digit numbers (6+9, 8+4, etc.) and the corresponding subtraction exercises (15-9, 12-4, etc.). To you, these are probably automatic; you don't need to think about them because you've memorized the answers. That immediate command is what we're striving to teach our students. Last week, after a checkpoint, I asked the children what they knew about personal trainers. We discussed the pros and cons of having a personal trainer, and then I told them that based on their ability to recall the subtraction facts without counting forward or backwards on their fingers, that I was going to be

+	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

their person trainer for a while. I am asking them to take two minutes per evening to practice. After they time their 2 minutes to see how many they can complete, it would be a good idea for them to then fill in the answers they did not complete. Automatic recall of the basic facts is a tremendous advantage in math. Problem solving will get increasingly complex and when you have to stop to figure out the answer to $13 - 8$, you sometimes forget what you were doing before you needed it.

Other notes:

- Wednesday is “favorite” decade. If your child prefers, it can be a regular spirit gear day.
- This Friday, March 24th we have a 12:30 dismissal, Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart, and parent-teacher conferences.

Warm regards,
Marj