



SECOND GRADE WEEKLY PLANS

MAY 22, 2017

VIRTUE: Forgiveness

TEACHER: MRS. MARTIN

ASSISTANT: MRS. SMITH

SAYING: Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk.

Dear Parents,

I was very pleased with how well the State Fair turned out. The children learned a lot, not just about their chosen state but about time management, research, and presentation skills. Having an opportunity to share with other classes and with their parents made the hard work much more exciting for them. Thank you for being so supportive; I recognize that you, not I, did most of the teaching on this project. On Friday, we will visit the 3rd Grade Wax Museum; your children will be encouraged to take mental notes for next year's show.

I'd like to extend my thanks to Mrs. Smith who covered for me last Monday and Tuesday. Gene and I traveled to Charleston, SC to see my son and future daughter-in-law. Her mother and I were treated to a Mothers' Day dinner so that the two families could meet. While in Charleston, we visited the Hunley Museum which is where the "first successful combat submarine" is being painstakingly restored. The history of this hand-cranked vessel is fascinating; today I shared the story, my photographs and a few souvenirs with the class. Please have a conversation with your child. I covered the mission, the recovery, and the restoration.

(Inside a model of the Hunley that is actually 19% too large.) —————→



Meanwhile, Mrs. Smith was keeping the children productively busy and created a lovely project on the virtue of forgiveness. They also read, "The Story of the Statue of Liberty." It gives the historic account of how the French sculptor, Frederic Bartholdi designed, built, dismantled, and shipped his gift to the United States. In a related activity, the children used their best handwriting to copy the poem, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus that is inscribed on the pedestal. Over these last 16 days of school, the kids will be exposed to more immigration stories to support our current history unit; I will be reading two picture books by Eve Bunting entitled, Dreaming of America: An Ellis Island Story, and How Many Days to America, as well as, When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest. There are also some good nonfiction selections that I include: ...If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island by Ellen Levine and Coming to America by Betsy Maestro. Today I told the story of my grandmother, Anna Schaeffer, who came over from Germany in steerage class as a 15 year old in 1905. She was traveling alone to a new country with no one to greet her.

Science: Each child is now observing the growth of two seeds, a monocot and a dicot. I will also give them the opportunity to plant something to take home. Ed Beliveau reports that our chicks are happy and growing. He is fostering them until their permanent home is ready to receive them.

We are still feeding our growing praying mantises. Your child might bring one home at the end of next week along with directions on how to care for it. If caring for a potentially large insect is not your idea of a relaxing summer, feel free to encourage your child to allow me to rehome it in my greenhouse. They are always quite successful in there. Any possible, but unlikely, egg case will not survive a New England winter so there is no worry about introducing an invasive species. This has been a successful way to watch incomplete metamorphosis.



In Language Arts last week, we read, "A Piece of Home" by Sonia Levitin. It is realistic fiction, and tells a story about a family of Russian immigrants and their son's adjustment to his new home in America. This week's story is "Jalapeno Bagels" by Natasha Wing. The main idea of the story is that cultural differences help to make America stronger.

In math, we are finishing pictographs and will then learning more about multiplication and the model that is used to visualize word problems. Why are the models important? Quite often second graders will say, I drew the wrong model but got the right answer. My goal is to help them see that there is a difference between, say, ordering 36 doughnuts from the bakery and getting them in 12 boxes of three doughnuts each rather than the usual three boxes of 12 doughnuts each. This is just one more example of the thinking that has to occur to support the computational knowledge.

Note from Señora Harris: We created beautiful *flores* in celebration of Mother's Day (*Feliz día de la madre*). During week two, we enjoyed interviewing one another (*entrevistas*) to learn more about where we were born, live, how old we are, and more! The students then recorded this information in "*Todo Sobre Mi*" books. See you in two weeks for our final week together!

Reminders (Parents are invited to events in bold typeface):

- May 25th: Lesson 29 spelling test.
- May 31st: Reading Log Due
- Monday, June 5th: Fast Forward Day; Second graders visit Miss Verheek
- **Friday, June 9 - Final Assembly 8:15 am**
- Monday, June 12 - Move-up Ceremony Rehearsal 8:15-9:00, Field Day
- Tuesday, June 13 - Please send in canvas bag in addition to backpack so that your child can bring home belongings.
- **June 14 -Move-Up Ceremony, K-7th grades, BCC, 8:30 am**
Dismissal to follow

Yours Truly,
Marj