

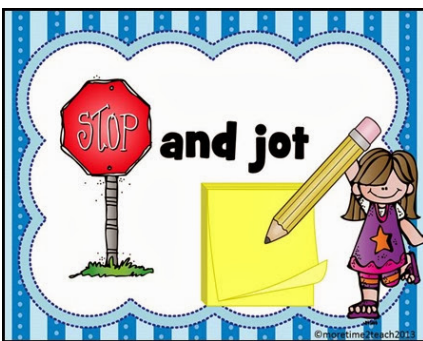
SECOND GRADE SCOOP

A Curricular Glance

January

Reading Workshop

In Reading Workshop, we began studying characters in chapter books. We are in the beginning stages of creating book clubs, just like adults. Students are working in partnerships to read the same book, chapter-by-chapter, and discuss it as they go. We are primarily focused on the characters and how they react to the problem(s) in the book. It is exciting to see how much the kids are talking about their books with their “same book partner”. Many students are using sticky notes to track their thinking and to help them remember what they want to share with their partners.



Please continue encouraging your child to read *at least* 20 minutes at home daily. Reading and comprehending longer texts can be challenging for students. This is the perfect time for you to read more challenging texts (e.g. chapter books) with your child and have “book club” discussions at home. You will be impressed with how much your child can discuss!

Math Workshop

In Math Workshop, we wrapped up Unit 4: *Place Value and Measurement*. During this unit, we practiced telling time to the nearest five minutes using an analog clock and differentiated between AM and PM. We explored place value by comparing 3-digit numbers using base-ten blocks. We also discussed the need for *standard units* (inches, centimeters & feet), as well as practiced measuring objects to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and centimeter using rulers. Since we will be starting Unit 5 soon, a new optional math packet will come home with your child today.

Writing Workshop

In Writing Workshop, we are learning how to write *Reviews*. We are expressing our strong feelings and opinions about some of our favorite books, movies, restaurants, games, toys and places we have visited. We are trying our best to convince others to share a similar view about our topics. We are doing so by supporting our reasons with evidence and interviewing classmates about their opinions on our topics as well. Finally, we will conclude our writing with a strong ending – giving our reviews a rating out of 5 stars!

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we kicked off our *Government* unit by focusing on the question, *How do citizens live together in a community?* We began exploring the importance of having a government and discussed ways that a government helps us to work together and keep people safe.

We also started learning about Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits: (1) *be proactive*, (2) *begin with the end in mind*, (3) *put first things first*, (4) *think win/win*, (5) *seek first to understand, then to be understood*, (6) *synergize* and (7) *sharpen the saw*.

Phonics

In Phonics, we learned that word builders are always looking for the easiest and fastest way to build BLC (big, long & complex) words. We can do so by using the biggest and most familiar parts of a tough word to help. We practiced building big words syllable-by-syllable, one part at a time. We carefully listened for the sounds and made sure to include at least one vowel in each syllable.