

Crestwood  
Elementary  
School

# Mrs. Gariepy's Second Grade Newsletter



May 12th  
2014

## Reader's Notebooks

Last week we focused on reviewing and creating the following reference pages in our reader's notebooks:

- Using Text Features to help identify and find information in non-fiction texts
- Asking questions when reading fiction and non-fiction books to demonstrate understanding and to provoke further research
- Identifying Characters in a book, listing their character traits, and noticing how he/she responds to problems and main events in a story's plot.
- Making Connections—How do my life and reading experiences help me connect to a story so I can understand it better?



## Writing Lab Reports + Forces and Motion

To supplement our writing curriculum, we are working through some concepts on forces and motion. Since we have been conducting experiments and writing up lab reports related to objects rolling and sliding down ramps, we have come across some lingering questions that we need more background knowledge on! To help write up our conclusions to our experiments, we did some research on forces and motion and used some of the PE/Gym tools to help us. We learned that objects at rest want to stay at rest... and objects in motion want to stay in motion! We also learned that in order for an object to move, a force must act on it. Likewise, a force must act on a moving object in order for it to stop (ie: gravity... friction...) Finally, we talked about how forces are acting on us all of the time—they are invisible! We learned some new vocabulary that we can now incorporate into our writing as it relates to our lab reports: force, gravity, motion, friction, conclusion, hypothesis, question, procedure, and more! While this is very rigorous work for 2nd graders, I am impressed with their efforts.

In a literacy conversation I attended last week I read this quote and it has stuck with me in regards to student writing: "...Teachers across the school [should] be less apt to spend a great deal of time getting one particular piece of writing to look "perfect." The emphasis will be on helping youngsters **grow** as writers rather than on helping them make particular pieces of writing exceptionally strong." (from *Writing Pathways: Performance Assessments and Learning Progressions K-5*, by Lucy Calkins) This is essential as writers continue to grow and learn... it's about the journey—celebrate growth!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** One of the things I have begun to emphasize is that students don't need my validation to know that their work is "good" or "not good." Rather, I want them to learn to think for themselves! I have checklists, posters and tools for reference and while I "check" student work, my hope is that they will learn to be self-reflective and to think critically of their own work—to notice successes and areas for growth! The writing checklists provided by the Lucy Calkins curriculum are great tools for this skill development. We should celebrate and encourage students by recognizing "hard work" rather than having them base their self perception solely off of my encouragement (though of course I do this as well).

## Math

We are in the season of many end of the year assessments. We will be wrapping up our end of the trimester assessment this week and will also be doing our end of the trimester assessment in the computer lab. Starting Tuesday we will kick off unit 11 which focuses primarily on addition and subtraction number stories involving money, trade-first subtraction, and multiplication and division fact families. While this seems like a lot (which it is), these are concepts we have touched on in the past, so the focus of unit 11 will be on additional skills to work towards deeper understanding in these areas.

I sent home a mad minute last week and will also be sending one home in this week's homework folder. Please continue to practice these at home... in third grade they will be moving to multiplication facts, so knowing addition and subtraction facts with automaticity is important to master in 2nd grade. I will continue to send home the M&M's as the year winds down, but keep this in mind throughout May and the summer months, too! As a reminder, 26 problems correctly completed in 2 minutes is a "3" on the progress reports. Finally, look for the unit 9 math assessment coming home in your child's homework folder today!



## Important Reminders!

- Field Day has been rescheduled for **Friday, May 23rd**
- Relay for Life at NRMS—**May 16th-17th**
- **NO SCHOOL May 26th** (Memorial Day)
- Tuesday, **May 20th**—2nd grade tie dye day... see homework folders!
- **May 28th**—2nd Grade Downtown Rockford Field Trip (more info coming **soon**)
- **May 29th**—Whitecaps Game for PE Fundraiser
- **June 4th**—Talent Show—2nd grade will be performing an act as an entire grade level!
- **June 4th, 5th, & 6th** are all half days

## Tie Dye Time!



2nd grade will be tie dying t-shirts on Tuesday, May 20th as a keepsake for their year! While we will be providing the dye, we ask that you send in a plain white t-shirt with your child by **May 16th**. You may send these in early. This could be a recycled shirt that you already have, as long as it is plain white (or new if you prefer—either will work). We will be wearing these shirts on our field trip on May 29th as well as for our talent show performance on June 4th. See your child's homework folder for more information. We will be needing parent volunteers to help out, so if you are interested/available, please let me know!

## Field Trip Chaperones

All three 2nd grade classrooms were blessed with an incredibly high number of parents interested in chaperoning our annual Rockford field trip. This is a wonderful problem to have as it means that so many of you want to be a part of this experience for your kiddos. Unfortunately, each class can only take 12 parents (I had 18 sign up) due to limited space on the buses and at various sites on the trip. To keep this fair, I did a random draw this weekend to select the parents who will be a part of the day's activities. There is a note coming home in your child's homework folder with more information on this. Whether or not your name was drawn, ALL parents are welcome and invited to come join us for the picnic at the park! If you signed up to chaperone but your name is in the picnic section of this note, please know that this was **tough** for me because I truly wish I could bring everyone! Thanks so much for your understanding and for your willingness to be a part of this fun event!



No More Word Study Tests!