

Second Grade News!

September 22, 2011

Math

We started our first math book called *Counting, Coins and Combinations*. We have been counting a lot of objects in the room and working with large quantities. We have also learned new math games. The plan is to have these games available to take home for homework. We are also learning how to work with a partner or small group ~ and help each other when Ms. Ryan is teaching a small group.

Literacy

Our classroom has a lot of fun places to read - the couch and the 3 comfy circle chairs seem to be the most popular. We also have 4 carpet areas in the room that are fun to sit on. During reading class, we can sit where we want as long as we are reading. If we need more structure then we read at our desks until we can build our stamina to read somewhere else in the room.

Each student has their own reading bucket filled with books just begging to be read. We are spending a lot of time working on book choices since there are over 3,000 titles in our classroom! We talked about how books can be easy, just right or too hard. We are learning how to identify which books are easy or just right and adding those to our buckets.

We are also working on stamina - increasing the amount of time a reader can read independently.

Word Study

After doing some spelling assessing and looking at each student's writing work, I have created 3 spelling groups. Each group will have their own set of skills to practice - based on what the members of the group need to work on.

Science/Social Studies

We started the year with books about bees and a huge bee's nest on our science counter. Unfortunately, there just wasn't much interest in bees so I changed the unit to beavers. This proved to be a successful change as everyone is very engaged in our beaver unit. Thank you to Graeffn and his family for sending in beaver books and sticks gnawed on by beavers. Thank you to Mrs. Edson for bringing in beaver teeth and 2 beaver pelts. I hope your second grader is sharing beaver facts with you!

Important Dates

There **WILL** be school on **September 28th** to make up one of the cancelled days caused by Tropical Storm Irene.

Misc.

Thank you for signing your child's homework folder each night and making sure it is returned to school. I appreciate it.