

Second Grade Newsletter

September 15, 2014

Dear Parents,

Second Grade is getting into the swing of things this week. The investigation into what made Rochester BOOM continues, our crew showed courage in math, and perseverance in ELA. We also have exciting news about our field studies.

The confirmations for the field studies have been rolling in all week. Please let us know if you would like to accompany the class on any of the following dates.

- **September, 22** Cadyville Farms. The bus will be leaving at 8:30 and returning at 2:00.
- **October 6th** the class will be going to Browns Race from 8:30 - 10:30.
- **October 24** we will be going on the Sam Patch/ Lock Tender Tour from 8:30 - 11:15.

Our crew began to deepen their understanding of simple machines this week. Second Graders discovered how a lever makes work easier through examining how a giant lever picks up a bucket full of bricks. They discovered how a wedge makes work easier by examining how a sledgehammer and wedge splits a piece of firewood. This will help them to make connections to how simple machines helped Rochester to grow and flourish as we begin to look at what resources drew people to this area in the early 1800's.

In our Math block we are continuing to build routines and procedures as we look at different strategies to solve problems. We have been working with the Read, Draw, Write strategy so that we can utilize each part to construct clear answers to problems. We have also been working on place value, addition and subtraction of numbers up to 20. This week we will be deconstructing numbers, working with missing numbers, and developing our fluency of numbers within 20.

In our Literacy block, we have introduced and begun a spelling and fluency component, a building comprehension component, and an Independent Reading time where students work on developing the habits of stamina and reading a "just right" book (the right reading level and level of interest). This week we will add a Guided Reading component to the block, and will also begin a descriptive writing exercise known as Describe the Day. On Tuesday, Mr. Levy, our amazing Expeditionary Learning school designer will work with our second graders on that Describe the Day work!

Our 100 Mile running club has begun! We ran twice last week: Wednesday and Friday morning. After lots of tweaking, revising, and deep thinking about the many scheduling needs across the school and who can be out running and supervising on any

given morning, it looks like our running schedule will look like this: Mondays and Thursdays from 8:20-8:45 (one lap on each of those days) and Friday from 8:20 til about 9:00 (two laps). GCCS classes have St. John Fisher College students working in our classrooms on Wednesday mornings through December, so no classes will be running on Wednesday mornings. There are still a few scheduling conflicts with other teachers working with some of our students on some running days, so a few students may be running with Mrs. O'Malley at another time during the week. If this applies to your child we will let you know so that they can be dressed to run !

Have a wonderful week!

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