

## Second Grade Teachers

Ms. Karen Bradshaw

Mrs. Sarah Warner

Mrs. Michelle Cuff

Mrs. Mary Gouker – Team Leader

## Grade Two Web News

In second grade reading, the focus changes from decoding words to learning the basic mechanics of reading which includes pre-reading and fluency, word analysis and vocabulary development. As your child grasps the mechanics of reading, comprehension skills come into greater focus. Students will develop understanding of the setting, characters, problem, solution and events of a story. As the children are immersed in various genres of literature, they will be prompted to ask questions and restate facts and details about the text. Through guided reading, they learn to recognize cause and effect relationships, to interpret information, to make connections, to ask important questions, to make predictions and to compare and contrast text information..

Second grade has a formal spelling test every two weeks that emphasize word patterns and sight words. . Word walls, individual primary dictionaries called Quickwords, and other classroom aids are used as resources to assist the children in correctly spelling words. We move from inventive spelling to the children being responsible for using resources to spell correctly. At this level, the children learn to recognize and spell contractions, plurals, prefixes and suffixes, verb tenses, compound words, homophones, antonyms and synonyms.

Second graders become more independent writers, writing for different purposes and using the writing process. Children have many opportunities to write everyday. Language skills are incorporated into the writing piece as well. They write responses to literature, in journals, math word problems, poetry, letters, reports and creative stories. They learn to expand simple written sentences into more complex sentences using transition words and phrases, and to create narrative, descriptive, informative and persuasive paragraphs. The 6+1 Trait writing framework with its traits of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, presentation is used in writing workshops as a powerful way for the children to visualize what ‘good writing’ looks like.

In second grade math, children need total mastery of their addition and subtraction facts since they are expected to expand their skills to two and three-digit computation. If they do not know these math facts quickly, their hesitation will make it hard to keep pace with second grade math problems. Other second grade math concepts are place value, expanding the concept of fractions and geometry. Second grade math students learn to use analog and digital clocks to measure time and use both the standard and metric systems in measuring length, distances, weight, temperature and capacity. Other units that we cover through the year are: statistics and probability, patterns and functions and data and graphing. Within all the math units, the children practice the problem solving strategies that are found on the Carroll County website.

Carroll County has a hands-on approach for the second grade science curriculum. Our units are insects and weather. This year we will add an additional STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) unit called “Sticky Situations” that will incorporate collaborative problem solving. This year our social studies curriculum focuses on map skills and communities. We talk about differences in communities, maps, the environment, consumers and buyers, and ways to help our own community.

We’ve also planned the following special days for the children to enjoy this year: Insect field trip, Math Madness Day, Poetry Café, and Community Day.