

Fruitvale Elementary School

Second Grade Team September Parent Newsletter

Your Second Grade teachers:

Parent-Teacher
Conferences

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September 6, 2013



Calendar:

Running Club 8:00- 8:30 on Wednesdays Start 9/11

Read-A-Thon Kick-off 9/13

PTA Meeting 4:15 p.m. Library 9/16

Last Day First Grading Quarter 10/10

No School for Students Teacher work day 10/11

Parent-teacher Conferences 10/24 & 10/25



A focus on "Time-in-Text" ; Helping at home with Reading

How important is it that my child read at home every day as well as at school ? "math" ! What will you choose for YOUR child?



When making important parental decisions like how to balance expectations for reading homework and

competing after-school activities, consider the research and then lets do the

Reading Achievement (source: Richard Allington):

Reader A:

Reads 30 minutes at home, 5 times per week

Reader B:

Reads 4 minutes at home, 5 times per week

The "Math":

Reader A : 30 min. X 5 = 150 min. /week

Reader B : 4 min. X 5 = 20 min. /week

Reader A:

150 min. x 40 weeks/school year = 6,000 min.

Reader B:

20 min. X 40 weeks/school year = 800 min.

Achievement percentile	Minutes reading	Words/year
90th	40.4/day	2,357,000
50th	12.9/day	601,000
10th	1.6/day	51,000

"Investigations in Mathematics"

We have been focusing on addition, subtraction, and the number system to develop accurate and efficient strategies for both addition and subtraction; solving math problems in ways that make sense to learners. New standards have us encourage critical thinking in students; making the emphasis on the process and explaining their thinking. Families often ask us about basic skills: "Why aren't students learning to add, subtract, multiply, and divide like we did?"

Today, understanding mathematics is as much a classroom focus as finding the correct answer is. Consider the following recent incident (source: NCTM)

In a restaurant, a cashier attempted to add two bills, one for \$4.50 and one for \$5.50, by carefully lining up the decimals and "carrying," like this:

\$5.50
+\$4.50
\$10.00

Although the procedure was correct, the customer wondered why the cashier did not just add 4 + 5, see that 50 cents + 50 cents is another dollar, and know that the total was \$10. without a calculator or even a piece of paper. Many people, however, cannot perform this type of computation mentally, partly because they lack number sense even though they learned the procedure of the algorithm in school. Research shows through using hands-on materials, visual aids, and real-life problems, students are more apt to understand why the operations work the way they do and will be more comfortable performing mental-math operations and meaning in the areas of number operations, geometry, statistics, and so forth required of them in middle school.

Soo...Keep counting forward and backwards by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's starting at different numbers, build math facts problems with Cherrios or raisins, etc.

⇒ Looking ahead (end of September/beginning October): **Unit II focus: Geometry 2-D & 3-D** (See "About the Math..." attached for examples)

Literacy :

(grade-level vocabulary and high frequency focus words for shared reading this month)

Grade-level phonics lessons for the month include vowels within words.*

Examples:

Vowels: Short o and long o	Vowels: Long a	Vowels: Long e
box, fox, dog lock, pot,	main, wait, sail, tail, train	eat, mean, leaf
cone, home, nose, poke	jay, pay, stay, hay, may,	need, queen, seek
rope		pony, baby, he, we

***Remember!** The focus is hearing the sounds and recognizing spelling patterns. Your student may be working with additional patterns at their level.

High Frequency Words (for reading & writing—to know by heart):

did	jump	make	it
who	had	ate	let
play	back	no	was
went	run	funny	his
down	going	see	want



Vocabulary for making meaning out of our stories in Treasures:

cuddle	collection	advice
favorite	concern	commotion
patient	exclaimed	rattled
practiced	figure	respected
settled	vendors	shivering
wrinkled		tangle

Academic vocabulary:

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Character, Setting, Story map, Sequence, Beginning, Middle, End, Plot, Expository Text Features; Photo & Captions, Fable, Main Idea, Details, Making Predictions,

Monitor Comprehension, Questioning: Who?, What?, Where?, Why? When? How?