

*****NEWS FROM OUR ROYAL ROOM*****

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

Dear Parents of My Sensational 2nd Grade Princesses & Princes,

Our first week together was (at least for me) fantastic! I am amazed at how much growth occurs over the summer: physically, mentally & in self-control. Second grade is a wonderful place to be! Your children quickly found a way to burrow right into my heart.

It is my belief that a teacher must teach from the 'inside out'. It has been my experience that the more time I spend getting to know each child and to value his/her particular: personality, gifts, abilities, challenges, likes, dislikes, hopes, fears & aspirations...the better teacher I am for each of them. When I love, respect and do my best for them, they in turn (hopefully!) love, respect and do their best for me. YES, OF COURSE WE ALL HAVE OUR "MOMENTS", "QUIRKS" & "PET PEEVES". By getting to know one another we will pick up on these too.

I will try to keep my next note a bit briefer. As it's the beginning of the year, I have more information to share. I tried to bullet point any new information for you that I felt was truly important. For instance:

- ❖ If you ever see an SG on a paper that has been corrected, it means that your child worked in a "Study Group" with me. After the children have had the opportunity to work independently on a particular assignment, I have those who need extra support come up and work in a small group with my guidance. Depending on the day and the assignment, the number of 2nd graders in a SG varies.
- ❖ If you haven't had an opportunity to send in a baby photo (labeled) of your child, please do so. I promise you'll get it back at the end of the year. We use them for birthday boards and some activities (e.g. showing how they have grown and changed, trying to guess who is who at the end of the year...)

God's Peace to You All,

Mary B.

Religion Rocks

Our second chapter was all about signs of God's love. After reviewing the content covered with Ms. Haviland, we continued with a conversation about all the wonderful ways that: God, our families, our friends and we can show love. The journal page was sent home—YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO THE 'AT HOME WITH THE FAMILY' unless I assign it or put it on as a choice board choice when homework starts up.

Reading/Writing Connection

This week I have been doing a great deal of observing the children when they read or are read to. This informal type of assessment helps me glean a great deal of information. I am now aware of which children find reading to be: a strength, a weakness, a challenge, a chore or a joy. I have identified those who will most likely need: extra encouragement, help in choosing an 'at level' book, review work in phonemic (sound) skills, a slight 'push' to get them to the next level so that they are challenged...Next week I will begin doing formal reading assessments to see which of my initial observations need to be corrected. In other words, I'll have your child read some passages to me at different grade levels then answer questions about the passages. Comprehension is 50% of the reading equation. Phonics (sounds/combinations that lead to 'word calling') represents the other 50%.

Math Matters

We are finishing our quick review of 1st grade **concepts (what exactly are addition and subtraction and why do we use these operations)**. Fairly soon, I would like to begin timed testing on the addition facts (0+0 through 9+9). After that, as your child progresses through these I will move him/her up to the subtraction facts. **This is your "heads up" to encourage your second grader to practice those flashcards. Please know that I keep this as stress free as possible.** I usually allow 2 minutes and give the children one 'mercy' (either one incorrect or one incomplete is not counted). I'm entertaining the thought of letting the children pick which facts they want to start with

(personal comfort level ☺). Perhaps this will lead to success and encourage them to study. If I notice that any one needs a different level, I will bump him/her up over time.

Science & Social Studies *Snippets*

We have just done a basic overview of what scientists do and how we are all scientists when we use the 5 senses God gave us to explore His world.

NOTABLE NOTES

Mon. 9/17- Library books are due! **Gym** class—wear gym shoes!

Tues. 9/18 –Music & Computers

Wed. – 9/19 -Art

Thurs. 9/20-Spanish & Computers

Fri. 9/21-Mass @ 9:55