



Our first Science Friday with Mr. Devol (WCA Middle School Science teacher)!

Dear Families,

September 1, 2017

Thank you to the families who came visit our classroom last night! If you were not able to make it, see below for the Back to School letter. I have also put your packet of information in your child's backpack as well as the quilt block project we completed.

Back to School Night 2017/2018
Ms. Browning's 2nd Grade
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#415-215-7937

Welcome:

Thank you for coming to visit our classroom. My goal is to create a classroom that is a **safe, engaging and inspiring learning environment.**

Our DO NOW's for the evening (6:00-7:00pm):

- 1. Find your child's self-portrait and have a seat**
- 2. Look over the packet of classroom information**
- 3. QUILT BLOCK- Your HOPES AND DREAMS for your 2nd grader**
- 4. Questions**

Our Class Rules:

Our class worked together to create our class rules.

BE SAFE AND USE SELF CONTROL

- 1. Keep your body to yourself including hands, feet, and legs**
- 2. Respect other classmates, yourself, your teachers and your classroom materials**
- 3. Walk in the classroom at all times**

Willow Creek Academy 2nd grade overarching theme is **Systems**

Curriculum:

Responsive Classroom:

Responsive Classroom is a social and emotional curriculum, which we believe is as important as the academic curriculum. We begin every day with a Morning Meeting, during which we greet each other,

share something about ourselves, do a group activity (integrating curriculum throughout the year) and read the daily message together.

1. How children learn is as important as what they learn.
2. Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction. To be successful academically and socially, children need to learn a set of social and emotional skills that include cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy and self-control.
3. Knowing the children we teach- individually, culturally and developmentally- is as important as the content we teach.
4. Knowing the families of the children we teach is as important as knowing the children we teach
5. How we, the adults at school, work together is as important as knowing the children.

English Language Arts –

- Lucy Caulkins Writing Workshop
- Lucy Caulkins Reading Workshop
- Words Their Way Word Study

Math –

- Investigations Math
- Dreambox

Science –

- Group Projects/Science Labs
- Field Trips
- Garden and Nutrition

Social Studies/History –

- Quilt Project
- Read-Alouds
- Geography and Maps

Technology-

- Common Sense Media Digital Citizen
- Online work with Dreambox (Math), RAZ kids (Reading), Spelling City (Words Their Way Word Work)

ELD instruction-

- Small group instruction in English language
- development 20-30 minutes a day

Special classes –

- Art
- Music
- PE twice a week
- Marin Theater Company Character/Drama lessons
- Library
- Friendship classes

Assessments:

MAP

Fountas and Pinnell reading assessment for fluency, accuracy and comprehension

Word Their Way – spelling inventory to determine differentiation

Dolce Sight Words

Writing assessments

Math Facts/Make Ten

Homework:

We practice experiential and project based learning in our classroom. This means less paper and less grading.

2nd grade homework is reading for 20 minutes or more and writing about the book/s they are reading. Reading is required every weeknight (Monday-Thursday).

Reading log packets are due on Friday morning.

I provide online programs for extra work at home if you choose.

Student Portfolios with samples of your student's work go home at the end of each trimester or at our conference.

Recommended online programs for work at home: (sign-in directions are attached)

Khan Academy

Dreambox

Spelling City

DynaMath - Challenging Real World Math!

<https://dynamath.scholastic.com/home-page-logged-out.html>

Password: willowcreek1

FRIDAY POST AND COMMUNICATION:

Please read the Friday post every week! I will let you know what is happening in the classroom, post photos from our week, share students' work, post events and upcoming field trips, and more.

I prefer email and text communication, but I want to know what works best for each family.

Please let me know how I can reach you.

If you contact me, I have a 24-hour response time.

Incentive systems:

We use positive reinforcement in our classroom, and we always try to say what we want, not what we don't want. Examples: Say "Walk only", NOT "don't run." Say "Keep your feet on the ground," NOT "don't put your feet on the chair."

Money system – students earn fake money for doing the right thing, helping others, completing challenging work, and more. The "money" students earn can be used to buy materials or privileges such as "Lunch with a Friend" in our class, another class or with a sibling in another grade. We use this system to teach us about money, value, counting, addition and subtraction. This system works great at home as well. Students can earn money to buy outings and toys. Please let me know if you would like to connect your home incentive system with us in the classroom.

Classdojo – point system we use to encourage skills such as cooperation, participation, teamwork, and helping others.

Kindness Counts – Schoolwide system earning tickets to be entered into the weekly drawing for prizes. Kindness counts supports and encourage Responsive Classroom skills such as growth mindset, cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.

Student of the Week:

Beginning the week of September 11th, we will begin our Student of the Week program. Each Friday I will randomly choose a student of the week. I will send home a sheet for that student to

fill out so that we can learn a little more about them. The next week that student will be our line-leader, my personal assistant, and receive a free “Lunch with a Friend”.

At the end of their week as Student of the Week, your child will present/share something about themselves at Morning Meeting (8:30am).

This can be a poster with photos, a special toy or item from home, a pet (please check with me first!), a slideshow (can be emailed to Ms. Browning), or any other special sharing. Your child will meet with me to discuss what they would like to share. Family members or family friends are welcome to join us for Student of the Week sharing!

Room Parent:

Our room parent is Mary Massey (Charlotte’s mom). She will be helping me to organize field trip drivers, Friday volunteers to help with our quilt project (cutting fabric squares, sewing with students, and helping sew quilts together with a sewing machine). conference sign-ups and more. You will receive periodic emails with class announcements or requests.

Field Trips and Classroom Visitors TBD:

- **Thursday, October 19th: DeYoung Museum, San Francisco** (depart WCA by 9am.) Kids will complete an art project and receive a guided tour. The program finishes in SF at 12:30pm. We’ll (likely) then have lunch and be back at WCA before the end of the school day.
- **Tuesday, November 14th: Slide Ranch, Marin (near Muir Beach) (depart WCA by 9am.)** Focus is on plants and ecosystems. Activities include: Goat milking and pasture exploration, Sensory garden exploration, Cooking from the garden, Honeybee investigation. More details on exact return time TBD – but assume it will be well before the end of the school day.
- **December**
The Nutcracker performance

Birthdays:

Please no cakes, cupcakes, cookies or candy for birthdays. If your student would like to share something with the class to honor their birthday (even if they have a summer birthday!), we like for students to share a food they like to make/eat with their family. This helps us to learn a little more about each other and possibly try new foods. We will be aware of nuts and other food allergies when we share food in the classroom. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to share something and I will schedule it.

After School Arrangements:

Please plan after school arrangements ahead of time. Email or text me with emergencies or changes.

Attendance and Independent Study:

I cannot stress enough the importance of daily attendance. If your student will be gone for several days, please go to the office and fill out an Independent Study Form. We need 7 days notice to process the paperwork and prepare a packet of work to take with you.

What I Ask of Parents/Families:

These 4 things are very important in order for us to have a safe, engaging and inspiring classroom environment:

- 1. NUTRITION – please make sure your child is eating a healthy breakfast with protein and not too much sugar. Please send a healthy snack to school with them if you are able.**
- 2. SLEEP – please make sure your child gets the appropriate amount of sleep each night, so that they can perform at their best during the day.**

<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/well/how-to-sleep>

https://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader?utm_source=sharetools&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website

- 3. READING – please make sure your child reads for 20 minutes or more each weeknight. The more students read, the better readers they will become!**

https://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader?utm_source=sharetools&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website

- 4. BEHAVIOR - please support your child by talking about how to be a good friend. We have Friendship class for the first 6 weeks of school. We will share what we learn in Friendship class in the Friday letter each week.**

Also, we ask that students talk to a grown up RIGHT AWAY if they are having trouble with another student at school. The sooner we find out about a problem, the sooner we can begin to help resolve it.