

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

January 12th, 2018

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! Thank you to all families for the generous holiday gifts.

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Jackson and Ms. Browning

Also, Miss Melissa is looking for donations of toys, games, and books to add to our prize box. Our students are earning so much “money”, so we are looking for more things for them to spend it on!

“One person’s trash is another person’s treasure”. Please do NOT spend money, only donations of previously owned items from family and friends.

SNACKS:

Please remember to send a healthy snack with your child every day. If you have a water bottle at home that you can send to school, we like to have them on hand for everyday use and field trips.

What are we learning?

2nd grade’s theme is SYSTEMS. We continue our focus on Earth Systems! We are also beginning to study landforms (volcanoes, canyons, mountain, hills, rivers and more), maps and geography. (Social Studies Standard: Students demonstrate map skills by describing the absolute and relative locations of people, places, and environments.)

Speaking of systems: Both Ms. Browning and Ms. Jackson use a money system in their classes. Students receive money (fake money that is) for staying on task, doing the right things, completing work and class jobs, and much more. Money can be spent to buy privileges and prizes. This system helps us to teach a 2nd grade standard Time and Money. Students learn the value of coins and counting money helps to practice math facts, and addition and subtraction.

Responsive Classroom:

- Morning Meeting and Closing Circles
- Learning how to use our class supplies, math and reading materials independently
- Creating a classroom environment where we can learn, make new friends, respect each other and have fun!

Writing Workshop:

We are beginning a Personal Narrative Writing Unit in Writing Workshop called Small Moments. We will be talking about Small Moments in our lives and writing many stories about ourselves.

We will be asking families to send or email photos of their family, life events, vacations and holiday celebrations to use to make a collage. This will help students to write when looking at the photos.

Math:

Place value of 2 - and 3 -digit numbers (hundreds, tens, and ones), addition and subtraction story problems, continuing practice with Math Fact Fluency, and working with Time and Money.

Beginning Data Analysis in February!

Reading Workshop:

Reading, reading, reading! The more we read at our assessed reading level, the better readers we will be! We began Reading buddies with 3rd grade!

Science:

Earth Systems – Layers of the Earth, Volcanoes, Rocks and Minerals, Weather and Storms

Ecosystems – what does a plant need to grow, photosynthesis

History/Social Studies:

Maps and landforms, and investigating the past.

Upcoming Confirmed Field Trips and Special Events are:

- Date in January or early February TBD - Walking Field Trip to the Bay Model and Post Office!
- Friday March 30th – **Ms. Browning's** class to **Bay Area Discovery Museum Explore the Shore STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering and Math) Workshop** 9:00am-1:30pm. Bay Area Discovery Museum 557 McReynold's Road, Sausalito, CA.
- Friday April 6th - **Ms. Browning's** class to **Wildcare** to explore animals and their habitats. 9:30-11:30am. 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA

Please remember to support the SMART Fund through which the Willow Creek Foundation provides funding for Classroom Support, Music, Art, Reading and Languages, and Technology to the Willow Creek Academy. You may make donations online on the Fundraising tab of the WCA website or by cash and check at the front office. All donations 100% tax deductible and will be put to use in the classrooms.

For 5-8th grade classes: "Did you know that WCF is now funding the Outward Bound program? If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.

Thank you for being such wonderful and supportive parents!
Ms. Browning, Ms. Jackson and Ms. Melissa

