

Dear 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families,

December 1st, 2017

**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?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade's theme is SYSTEMS. We began our focus on Earth Systems! We are studying Volcanoes, Rocks and Minerals, Storms and Weather! We will be writing non-fiction books about a topic, building models and doing experiments.**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

Both classes began a Writing Workshop Non-Fiction Unit next week. We are writing books about something that we know a lot about!

**Math:**

Place value of 2 - and 3 -digit numbers, addition and subtraction story problem, and continuing practice with Math Fact Fluency, and working with Time and Money.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!

**Science:**

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

Beginning Ecosystems – what does a plant need to grow, photosynthesis

**Upcoming Confirmed Field Trips and Special Events are:**

- Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> - Ms. Browning's class to **Wildcare** in San Rafael – to explore animals and their habitats.

*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 and Ms. Jackson