





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

February 16th, 2018

**Have a great week off and enjoy your time together with your family and friends! We will look forward to seeing you back to finish another great trimester! 2<sup>nd</sup> grade begins leading Morning Assembly on March 1<sup>st</sup>**

## **to celebrate the word of the month for March: SHARING!**

### **Important social skills and reminders for your 2<sup>nd</sup> grader:**

- 1. Be kind, use kind words with other students or members of your family.**
- 2. If you see someone who looks unhappy, do something to help them feel better**
- 3. Tell a caring adult if you need help – if someone is not using kind words with you or if you seen someone else being treated unkind.**

**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?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade’s theme is SYSTEMS. We continue our focus on Earth Systems! We are studying 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 such as Lunch with a Friend, hot chocolate, popsicle, class party, comfy pass and much more!**

**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:**

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 are 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:**

Data Analysis! Charts and graphs and more!

**Reading Workshop:**

We are reading and discussing different versions of fairy tales.

Reading, reading, reading! The more we read at our assessed reading level, the better readers we will be! We have Reading buddies from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Tam High!

**Science:**

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

Ecosystems – what does a plant need to grow, photosynthesis

**Social Studies and History:**

Maps and landforms, and investigating the past.

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

- Date in February or March TBD - Walking Field Trip to the Bay Model and Post Office!
- **Mark your calendars for the Spring Gala on Saturday, March 24 at IDESST.**
- Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> – **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 6<sup>th</sup> - **Ms. Browning's** class to **Wildcare** to explore animals and their habitats. 9:30-11:30am. 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA
- The Spring concerts and dress rehearsals have been scheduled:
  - K-2 Concert: Friday, May 4 1:00-2:00
  - 3-5 Concert: Friday, May 18 1:30-3:00
  - 6-8 Concert: Friday, June 1 2:00-3:00

*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