



Dear 2nd Grade Families,

March 30th, 2018

We had great month on the stage for Morning Assembly! Thank you to all the brave 2nd graders willing to speak on the stage. What a great way to practice communication skills.

Important social skills and reminders for your 2nd 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?

2nd 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 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 began a Personal Narrative Writing Unit in Writing Workshop called Small Moments. We are 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:

How Many Tens? How Many Hundreds? This unit focuses on the place value of 3-digit numbers and operating on numbers within 100. Students come to see 100 as 10 tens and multiples of 100 as being made up of some number of hundreds. They solve a variety of types of story problems (e.g., put together/take apart with one or both addends unknown, add to and take from with result unknown, unknown change or an unknown start). They play games that involve combining amounts to get to 100 or \$1. Work on fluency with addition and subtraction within 100 continues, with a focus on using known facts and knowledge of the operations. Fluency with addition within 100 is a benchmark in this unit. Students also identify, read, and write numbers to 1,000 and add and subtract 10 and 100 to numbers in that range. Fluency with addition within 100 is a benchmark in this unit.

Reading Workshop:

We are beginning a Book Club Series! Students will participate in a book club with a reading partner.

Reading, reading, reading! The more we read at our assessed reading level, the better readers we will be! We have Reading buddies from 3rd grade, 5th 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 April 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
- 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
- Back to School Night Thursday, May 31st 6:00pm

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