

2nd Grade News – August-September 2014

Reading

We'll jump right into our reading groups, focusing on finding the main ideas, sequencing, predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, and characterizations. Our new readers use background knowledge, allowing us to build our comprehension and speed with confidence. Students will review consonant sounds – hard and soft which will help in reading and

writing new words. As the second graders begin to understand and learn to apply the concepts involved in longer words, they will be able to identify the two words in compound words. They will begin to identify the number of syllables in words and look up new words in the dictionary. Second grade will be challenged to make hidden word puzzles, using only words that begin or end with the same consonant blend.



Science & Social Studies

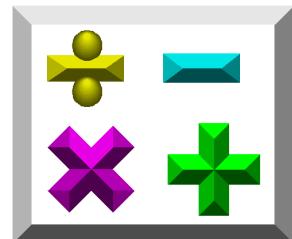
Second grade will begin a unit covering "Johnny Appleseed". This study provides the students with activities that promote critical thinking skills. They will follow Johnny's journey west, then locate the states on a map and chart his adventures. One of the "Moving on" activities will be to design a travel poster that would make people want to leave Massachusetts and move to Ohio in 1795.

Second Grade will participate in science related webbing activities to discuss the different kinds of plants that produce fruit. This unit of study will be very beneficial as well as enjoyable for second graders.

Math

Everyday Math allows the students to gain an important understanding of mathematics. We will be expanding the range of their capabilities by exploring ideas and experiences using operational games like Addition Top-It and subtraction Top-it. The students are provided math journals, activity books, and math tools which emphasize practical procedures that build arithmetic skills. They will be measuring heights and working with weights.

Place values will be reinforced through coin exchanges and playing "money exchange". Second grade will continue working on number scrolls. Number equivalencies are strengthened with everyone playing the "broken calculator" game. They will also be ordering numbers from least to greatest. Geometry is explored by making triangles and geoboards. Patterns, functions, and sequences are understood by working on number grid patterns.



Spelling & Writing

This year, the 2nd grade will be mastering spelling through paragraph writing. This will reinforce the ability to write complete sentences by practicing basic punctuation and capitalization. Second graders will build their own vocabulary and writing techniques using main ideas, topic sentences, and supporting ideas.



1st Grade News – August-September 2014

1st Grade News – Reading & Language Arts

The **Open Court Reading** program involves the systematic, explicit teaching of the relationship of individual sounds to spoken language, sound/spelling, the blending of sounds into words, and the application of

this knowledge to reading and writing. The first unit **Let's Read** is a collection of poems, rhymes and stories that encourages students to explore the foundations of literacy: sounds, letters, and the conventions of print and

meaning. Throughout this unit, your student will be working on several different activities that encourage them to become interested and excited about the processes of reading.



Science & Social Studies

First grade will be studying communities and their rules. We will learn how communities work together and become responsible citizens. We'll be putting together a community book that makes a great keepsake.

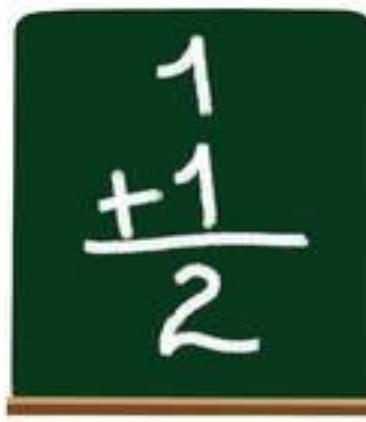


First grade science will explore our changing world (community) by discovering how changes make a difference to plants and animals.

Math

We will be learning to use our number line and chart the weather and daily attendance. We will gain an understanding of math through games, journals, activities, and explorations. Each student will organize their math tools and work with pattern-block templates. First graders will broaden their understanding of math by maintaining numerous operational games.

We will be counting to 50 by 2's, 5's and 10's on our number line... then count back by 1's. We'll begin labeling our domino counts and reinforce our many counting skills through "dice roll" and "tally counts". It will be exciting exploring with base 10 blocks and building numeration with "top-it" games.



Spelling

Each week, your student will receive words that will enhance their vocabulary and reading. The students will learn to "sound out" and "spell" correctly. They will begin putting spelling words in alphabetical order. Thursday of every week they will be given a pre-spelling test and if they score 100% they will not be required to take the test on Friday. Spelling words will be sent home in Friday folders. Please review spelling words daily.





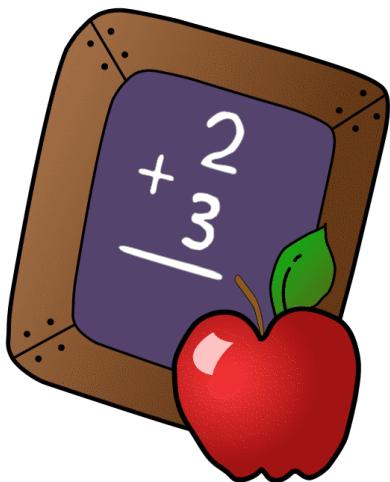
Kindergarten News – August-September 2014

WELCOME! The first few weeks of Kindergarten are a time of great excitement. Becoming a student is a big step in five-year-olds' lives. Everyday they are introduced to new roles and routines associated with being a "student". Throughout the year, they are given opportunities to reflect on themes that they care about, and can relate to their own lives.

Their first Unit Theme in **Open Court Reading** is **School**. It is designed so that students' first formal introduction to books and school can take place simultaneously with each informing and enriching the other. In the School **Unit** the students will engage in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities that will

encourage them to reflect on their own goals and expectations and those of their classmates and teachers. As they read the stories and poems, the students will review school through the eyes of story characters, offering them an opportunity to think about and discuss this new chapter of their lives. This unit will extend the students' speaking and

listening vocabularies and encourage the use of a variety of phonological decoding and reading comprehension strategies. They will work on projects that allow them to connect their past learning to the present and future. Under teacher direction and independent work, they'll develop their understanding of **School**.



Math

Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics is organized around mathematical content strands. Activities range from whole group instruction to being set-up as learning centers. Their first unit strand

Numeration and Order includes:

Oral and rote counting to 115 and beyond

Rational counting with objects of various sizes, shapes, and arrangements

Counting with an action

Identify small numbers without counting

Counting in sequences

Counting on and back from a number

One more, one less

Skip counts by 2's, 5's, and 10's

Tally counting

Estimate quantity

Concept of zero





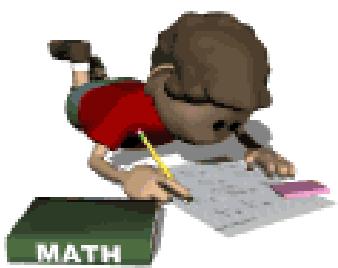
Advance Pre-K News – August-September 2014

Reading

“PREPARING YOUR STUDENT”

Preparing students to read is incorporated throughout the children's busy daily routine. Lessons carefully teach letter names, sounds, and spellings in a systematic sequence

that enables students to begin reading real words as soon as possible. Practice and review of key skills are built into activities daily to ensure mastery.



Math

They will work on activities that allow them to connect their past learning to the present and future. This allows the “I CAN” to be put into practice!. Math games will provide opportunities to reinforce new skills

and review previously covered concepts. Games give students a chance to work out important mathematical ideas as well as problem solving strategies. Students work out concepts such as over/under,

beside/below, top/middle/bottom, longer/longest and right/left. They will work informally with addition & subtraction activities using the concepts of “none and fewer”.

