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## 2nd Grade: Curriculum Update for the Week of January 31 - February 4th, 2022

27 files • Michelle McAfee • 4 days ago • Friday, Feb 4 at 4:03 PM • **2nd Grade**

Dear Second Grade Families,

This week was an Explosion of Culture as we learned about the Lunar New Year and began Black History Month.

For the Lunar New Year, many kids wore red, gold, or something new, and some had personal connections to the Lunar New Year slide show that Susan created. The second graders learned that Lunar New Year is celebrated in many countries, not just in China (although they may hear it referred to as “Chinese New Year”). The kids practiced writing the numbers one through ten using Chinese characters; they also learned to write a selection of words; talked about the horoscope; and explored a variety of other activities. We read: **The Lunar New Year**, **The Pet Dragon**, and **Golden Blooms: Celebrating Tet-Vietnamese Lunar New Year**. [REDACTED]'s family provided an exciting red envelope pocket with a very special wooden coin. The wooden coins have special etchings featuring animals from the lunar calendar as well as the name of each class. Thank you to [REDACTED] for this new year keepsake. The second graders ended the first day of the lunar new year with a candy treat to start the Lunar New Year off sweetly.

Also on February 1st, we asked the question, “*Why do you think we have Black History month?*” There was a wide range of answers and understandings. We also asked “*Who are some African American Changemakers you know?*” The kids were amazing with the list they generated! Afterwards we introduced the prominent American historian, **Carter G. Woodson**, who was an author, journalist, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He is known as the “*Father of Black History*,” and he launched “*Negro History Week*” on February 7, 1926. This was the precursor of what we know now as **Black History Month**. The kids will hear read-alouds, read books, and do activities that will educate them about the African American history of resilience and the celebration of the people and culture.

Happy Year of the Tiger & Black History Month!

*Susan, Michelle, Julia, & Dani*

### **PARENT TO-DOs**

1. Scholastic Book orders went home with the kids today and yesterday. If you and your child decide to order books, please submit your order by Tuesday, February 8th!
2. Reminder: Send in headphones for your child to use during school. These stay at school for use with Lexia and Dreambox. Please make sure your child brings their headphones to school next week if they don't have them here.
3. Thank you to the 16 people who appreciated last week's curriculum update post. Appreciating the post helps us to know that you have seen our important announcements and are in touch with your child's learning experiences.

### **Important Logistics**

- Remember to pack your child's daily snack and return their water bottle for use at school.
- Pack enough clean masks (KN94 or a surgical mask + cloth mask combination) for your child to have a mask change after recess and lunch; also pack a bag labeled “dirty masks” for your child to place their dirty mask

into.

- If your family or child is out sick, please email the teachers (including the assistant teachers) and the office ([Cassandra.mcgraw@parkdayschool.org](mailto:Cassandra.mcgraw@parkdayschool.org)) so that we are all in communication.

### Upcoming Important Dates:

- Tuesdays and Fridays are our COVID testing days.
- Friday, February 12, 2022 - NO SCHOOL - Staff development day
- Monday, February 14, 2022 - Valentine's Day: bring in Valentine's Day cards by Mon.
- February 21-25, 2022 - President's Day holiday & February break

### Curriculum Update

- We continued Foundations unit 7 this week and learned how to double consonants in two-syllable words to preserve the short vowel sound. For example, to make "pup" into "puppy", the second graders double the "p" to keep the short vowel u sound. Ask your child to spell this week's trick words: city, every, family.
- We celebrated the birthdays of Langston Hughes (2/1) and Rosa Parks (2/4) by reciting poems by Langston and reading a story to learn more about Rosa Parks. As mentioned in the opening paragraph above, we will be learning about many important contributions to our history by African Americans during the upcoming weeks. Special thanks to [redacted]'s family [redacted] for lending some beautiful poetry and picture books to us this month in celebration of Black History Month. This week, we enjoyed looking at the powerful illustrations and words of Kwame Alexander's Caldecott winning book **The Undeclared**.
- In language arts, we continued working on our lifeline project. Most students are in the process of taking their drafts and transferring the sentences onto the final draft page.
- On 2-2-22, we celebrated "Twos"day with various activities working with the number 2. We played a human bingo game to "find someone who..." and enjoyed finding people to fill out our bingo sheets. We also enjoyed picking out at least 2 ideas from our "Twosday" activity page (ex: draw for 2 minutes, write their names as many times in 2 minutes, draw the other half of a picture that someone else had started, etc.).
- In math, we practiced measuring using the paper unifix cube number line tool that each child created for themselves. From measuring paper to hallway lengths (ex: How far is it from the doorway to the third grade classrooms?; How long is the pathway to the sunken garden?), some kids enjoyed sharing the difference (distance) between two points and talked about how many tens and ones were in numbers such as 68, 132, and 1,400.
- We also began to learn how to jump on the number line, and how to show our thinking on the number line. For some children in the early lessons, they want to jump ahead and rush to jump in large increments for numbers that are easy to solve in their heads (ex: 10+19, they want to jump on the number line by 19 straight to 29) and we are showing the second graders how to slow down and break their mathematical thinking into increments that can demonstrate "showing the work" on the number line. 19 is not a friendly number that a typical person would count by.
- The second graders enjoyed attending and singing in the K-5 assembly honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this morning. The kids have been enjoying learning about Dr. King and some have been inspired to do independent activities around what they've learned. See the photo of [redacted]'s poster and the song written by [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted].

### Looking ahead

#### Second graders can look forward to:

*Language Arts - Weekend News, Goals self-portrait, Journals, Foundations Unit 7*

*Math - Practice using a Number line*

*Social Studies - Black History Month, Dumplings for the new year, Name Project*  
*Specialist Class Assignments - Art, Learning Garden, PE, Music, Spanish*