

## 2nd Grade: Curriculum Update for the Week of December 14-18

Michelle McAfee • Saturday, Dec 12 at 3:45 PM • **2nd Grade**

Dear Second Grade Families,

Second graders spent the bulk of this week practicing their measuring skills. Between the measuring activities in their November Number Corner Packet and the beans and garden beds in their blue Bridges books, students are beginning to attend to precision and use appropriate tools strategically (for ex., grouping the unifix cubes in color groups by 5's and 10's to count the total more strategically, rather than randomly putting them together, which necessitates them counting by ones to arrive at the total sum). They sharpened their estimation skills, practiced skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, learned about measuring the perimeter of an object, and how to determine exactly how much longer one item is than another. We are grateful for your assistance gathering the paper for the math activities this week. We spent time on zoom on Tuesday helping them measure the garden beds, and many were able to complete them during the time we set aside during Stories for Friendship and Justice later that afternoon with Sarah. We appreciate the parents who helped their children with the final measurements before sending them to school on Wednesday. It was a rewarding mathematical excursion. One student even referred to herself proudly as "The Measurement Princess!"

See you next week,

Michelle, Susan & Sarah

## PARENT TO-DOs

1. **Send headphones next Friday for use during reading buddies.** Even if your child did not check out a school ipad, your child needs to provide the headphones to use with the ipads on campus.
2. Send your child dressed in layers next week, prepared for all types of weather.
3. Help your child bring back these items to their work space: their binder (with all of the subjects), journal, sketch pad, blue Bridges math book, **pencil sharpener**, glue stick, 3 clean masks in a bag, and a bag for dirty masks, filled water bottle, snack, and hand sanitizer. Your child should also have their feelings fuzzy strip, days of school number line (both tucked into the pocket of their binder), a book for TTR, and a small pocket-sized pk. of tissues (optional). Please bring charged i-pad devices (if checked out from the school) and headphones.
4. This is also a good opportunity to talk with your child about Digital Citizenship and responsibilities such as not taking screenshots, photos and videos of other students and teachers without their permission.

## Important Logistics

- @Home learners: please stop by the front steps of the Palm building to pick up your child's supplies. They are in a brown paper bag with your child's name written on it; please transfer the items to your own bag and LEAVE the bag with your child's name on it so that you can drop off the bookmark your child made for their 5th grade reading buddy into that bag for us to hand out.

## Curriculum Update

- The students sorted books with Jeanine on Wednesday, who reported that we collected 750 books to donate to Manzanita Community School! Thank you for supporting this year's second grade book drive efforts.
- A highlight from this week was learning about Hanukkah (Thank you students for sharing about your family's traditions and also for the gelt, Sari!) and Winter Solstice. Thank you Sage for sharing interesting tidbits with the second graders about how your family celebrates. In addition - did you know that your shadow is the longest on Dec. 21st (the day of the winter solstice), and that on that day this year there will be a rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. The two largest planets will appear closer to each other like a "double planet" - the last time these two planets were seen in this type of close proximity occurred during the Middle Ages in 1226.
- This week, the children used their data gathered from the reading buddy interview last week to begin working on their reading buddy holiday gift. We are making an acrostic verse bookmark and will gift them this coming week.
- During our literacy block, we also learned about metaphors and discussed how metaphors are different from similes. For our reading word work this week, we practiced spelling patterns with a vowel+consonant ending (-sh, -ing) and played a rousing round of blackout BINGO together.
- During December's number corner calendar, the students are reviewing 2-D shapes and related geometry vocabulary (such as sides and vertices). We also looked at patterns and learned about how to

make rectangular arrays with rows + columns. The students practiced repeated addition and multiplication when writing the equations out for the rows or columns associated with the array. In third grade, the children will have more opportunities to build on this introductory understanding when they continue to build arrays related to multiplication.

- In this week's Healing Power of Music time, Jackie worked with the second graders on creating scenes out of sounds. Together, they heard a sound and then each child imagined what the scene or character might be. Examples of some creative ideas included: a crocodile, a crocodile in space, a robot, and birds in a forest.
- In science this week we participated in the Hour of Code! We talked about block coding and some kids shared that they learned how to loop a command. We also shared about early computers and read a biography about Ada Lovelace so that the second graders would learn about her love for mathematical algorithms. Ada Lovelace was considered the first computer programmer. She wrote about a computer, the Analytical Engine, before one was ever built, and she realized that the Analytical Engine (the future computer) could follow a series of simple instructions, a program, to perform a complex calculation.

## ***Looking ahead***

**Next week, second graders will focus on:**

*Language Arts - Weekend News, Journal time, Word Work, Life Doesn't Frighten Me poem, Completing Name Project*

*Math - Measurement, Number Line Intro, Number Corner: Add 10s and 9s*

*Social Studies + Science - Highlighting Changemakers Dorothy Vaughn, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson*

*Specialist Class Assignments - Art, Learning Garden, PE*