

Second Grade: Curriculum update 10/16/20

Susan Lee • Friday, Oct 16 at 4:27 PM • **2nd Grade**

Dear Second Grade Families, Your children have just embarked on a 4-5 week Election Research journey during which time they will have the opportunity to learn about the election process in three ways: 1) ongoing check-ins on the current events/real news cycle; 2) by going through our own election cycle with faux-candidates; 3) using mini-research teams for kids to learn more about a specific topic related to elections. Some of these topic choices include exploring: the basics of the voting process; branches of government; our local officials; and some historical landmarks (including Women Suffragist Movement, and the Voting Rights Act).

A few of the learning goals for this unit include: understanding that there are 3 different branches in our Federal Government, learning about the importance of voting and the steps involved, becoming familiar with election-related vocabulary words (such as party, election, candidate, campaign, and platform), as well as learning about our local officials.

This week, the classes were introduced to the 3 parties and the 6 “faux-candidates” who will be running for office. The 3 planetary parties are: the Mercury Party (featuring the candidates Rabbit vs. Fork+Spoon), the Venus Party (featuring the candidates Water Bottle vs. Plastic Cup, and the Mars Party (featuring the candidates Scarf vs. Toxic Spray Paint). The second graders will be voting in the Planetary Primaries on 10/21.

Parent TO-DOs:

1. We will link the six short ads for these candidates here so that you can watch and discuss with your child. Ask your child what platform the candidates represent.

MERCURY PARTY: **Rabbit** vs. **Fork + Spoon**

VENUS PARTY: **Water Bottle** vs. **Plastic Cup**

MARS PARTY: **Scarf** vs. **Toxic Spray Paint**

2. Help your child get ready to write their Weekend news by brainstorming the night (or Monday morning) before class begins about possible topics that could be written about the weekend. Your child can make notes to help them, or write a few sentence starters.

3. Parents interested in knowing what has been assigned can see the Google doc with our **2nd Grade Kid's Assignments List**. You may look at this list to see the assignments we've covered in class. **This list is now located in your Parent Square Resource Hub for your reference.**

Enjoy your weekend,
Michelle and Susan

Important Logistics:

- Look in your mail next week for an ENVELOPE. It will include bat-related science pages, weekend news sheets, a math assessment, and a few other papers. Please keep everything contained within that envelope, and in their workspace until we address it with the kids.
- We have started to assign special modules and assignments in Dreambox. These assignments should be completed first before your child explores other areas. They are marked with a blue calendar icon, and a child may have to search for it by entering the different houses to find it.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- The 11th annual PDS Mini-Maker Faire is coming. Join us virtually on Saturday, October 25, 2020 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Buy tickets here** and spread the word.
- Please note that the November conference date has changed to the following week, November 12-13. The conferences will be held on Zoom.

Curriculum Update:

- Highlights from this week include thinking about and drawing our class name, and being introduced to our 6 second grade “faux-candidates”. See opening for details.
- As part of our name project, students wrapped up their informational writing piece on the story of their names. The children added a conclusion and received feedback on how to add to their work to make their informational writing piece more complete.
- Books read this week:
 - Dog Loves Books by Louise Yates
 - Bats: Backyard Wildlife book by Kari Schuetz
- In honor of Latin American Heritage Month:
 - Noa’s mom, Erica, came today as a guest speaker. She shared about an important LatinX Heritage Month Changemaker, Xóchitl Guadalupe Cruz, Erica shared the meaning Xóchitl’s (So-Cheel) name, and how it comes from the indigenous language spoken in the Chiapas. She is an award-winning scientist and young engineer who designed a solar-powered water heater to help people in her community when she was in 3rd grade. Erica shared related words in Spanish with us and stretched our minds by showing us a **video of Xóchitl** discussing her invention in Spanish (which she created out of recycled materials!). We learned about what we have in

common with her, including that we are students and scientists, and that kids can make a difference with all of their inventions and ideas. Erica left us thinking about: science math, design, environmental access, and indigenous rights.

- This month's calendar collection patterns feature different colored leaves in two shapes. We've learned about pinnate leaves (shaped like a feather) and palmate leaves (shaped like the outstretched hand). This week we looked at the patterns in the calendar, made predictions, and then noticed multiples of 3 in the calendar pattern.
- In math, we also reviewed our doubles plus one (or minus one) facts for addition and colored in the facts on our addition table. By the end of second grade, students should be more automatic and fluent with their doubles addition facts, and their doubles plus (or minus) one facts.
- Jeanine came to launch and kickoff our annual 2nd grade Book Drive project today! She read the book "Dog Loves Books" and encouraged kids to take a look this weekend around their spaces to see if there are any books in good condition which might be in good shape to pass along. She has challenged kids to think about how to get the word out about collecting books this year and will be back next week for another session.

Looking ahead...

Next week, second graders will focus on:

Language Arts - Weekend News, Journal time, Name cinquain, Begin taking research notes for election-related project topic

Math - Number Corner: Addition table (+9, +10 facts), Bridges: selected pages, Dreambox

Social Studies - Exploring Identity: Name Project activities, Jackie will introduce the Papeha project which ties into our Identity exploration,

Second session for book drive project with Jeanine

Science - Continue studying about Bats!

*Specialist Class Assignments - Spanish, Learning Garden (live), P.E.
(asynchronous)*