



May News from Mr. Howell

Hello Parents!

How did it suddenly become May already? This school year seems to be wrapping up, and yet it feels in some ways like we just began. For me, it's a reminder to cherish each day that I still have with your children as 2nd graders. These final five weeks of school will be as busy as ever, but hopefully equally enjoyable for all of us. As we look ahead, here are some news and notes about what is on the agenda this month.

- **Assessments:** It's time to begin administering end-of-year assessments across subject areas.
 - **DRA:** I will administer the Developmental Reading Assessment to each student this month through which students will have the opportunity to display their growth in reading this year. They will be asked to read a short book and answer a series of comprehension questions.
 - **Writing:** I will be collecting an end-of-year writing assessment. Students will be given the option of writing an informational piece, an opinion piece, or a personal narrative (our three primary units of study this year). The finished writing samples will be scored and then be passed along to their 3rd grade teacher for next year.
 - **MAP:** Students took their 3rd round of the computer based MAP (math & reading) tests last during the final week of April. Scores will be emailed to parents later this spring when the testing window has closed.
 - **DSI (Developmental Spelling Inventory):** This 25 word spelling assessment was given in September and is given also at the end of the year as a means to gauge the progress made over the school year.

- **Math:** In the final weeks of the school year, we will continue exploring arrays and their connection to repeated addition and multiplication. Afterward, we will delve into some multi-step word problems that use addition and subtraction, and will include money and length.
- **Social Studies:** Wyandot's annual Multicultural Day is on Friday, May 12th. In preparation for that day, we will spend time learning about some of the nationalities and cultures represented in our school.
- **Writing:** To begin the month, we will continue working on our "Expert Books" - an informational writing project that began in April. Afterward, we will do some review work on the specific units of study from this year as a means of preparation for the end-of-year writing assessment/sample.
- **Word Study:** Concepts studies this month will primarily be focused on prefixes (un, re, pre, dis).

Other Important Dates and Details:

- **Snow Day (at school)** on May 5th - this will be a fun day of learning and play with a "Snow Day" theme.
- **Morning with Mom** - Thursday, May 11th
- **Multicultural Day** is Friday, May 12th
- **Scholastic Book Fair** - May 15th - May 19th
- **Field Day** - Wednesday, May 17th
- **Class Party/Lunch** - Friday, May 19th, 12:00 - 1:00pm.
- **Last Day of School** - Thursday, May 25th
- **Family Math Night & Reading Passages:** We will continue our weekly homework routine. Family Math will be due on Thursday of each week. The reading comprehension worksheet will be due on Friday of each week.

Thanks for making this year so special. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. Perhaps I'll be in touch with a number of you again next year!

Until then...

~Mr. Howell