



September News from Mr. Howell

Hello Parents!

The school year is well underway and we are gaining momentum in the classroom. The early weeks of school are spent establishing routines in the classroom and throughout the building. I'm happy to report that the students are adjusting well to their new room and new classmates. They are ready to jump into the 2nd grade curriculum.

This is a brief overview of the things we will be discussing and exploring this month:

- **Assessments:** The fall round of assessment are almost entirely completed. Here is a description of the assessments your students took:
 - **DRA:** I administered the Developmental Reading Assessment to each student this month through which students will have the opportunity to display aspects of their reading proficiency. They were asked to read a short book and answer a series of comprehension questions.
 - **Writing:** I collected a short narrative writing sample from each student to help me guide my instruction for each student.
 - **MAP:** Students took their 1st round of the computer based MAP (math & reading) tests on Wednesday and Thursday, August 30th & 31st. They will take it again this winter, and then again in the spring.
 - **DSI (Developmental Spelling Inventory):** This 25 word spelling assessment was given in August and is given also at the end of the year as a means to gauge the progress made over the school year.

- **Reading:** We are still working to establish our Reading Workshop routines, while also practicing writing quality reading responses for Kidblog. Eventually, students will be asked to post to Kidblog from home one time each week. Also this month, we will begin a unit of Character Traits as we begin to look more closely at the characters in the books we read.
- **Math:** Our first unit of study will launch in the first days of the month. We will spend much of the first trimester working on understanding place value and exploring how it can help us as we look at larger numbers in 2nd grade.
- **Social Studies:** The first full week of September also saw the launch of our Social Studies unit on Citizenship. In this unit of study, we define citizens and community, we discuss the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and explore how we can be good citizens in our community and in our school.
- **Writing:** Based upon the writing samples the students submitted in August, I have chosen to start the school year by doing some guided instruction on writing sentences. We are working to distinguish between what is a complete sentence, and incomplete sentence (fragment), and run-on sentences. By the middle of the month, we will begin our first writing project of the year: Small Moment Personal Narratives.
- **Word Study:** Concepts being studied this month are syllables and long vowel spelling patterns.

Other Important Dates and Details:

- **Patriot Day** is being observed on September 11th. Students will honor our local first responders as they come to school on Monday. Wear Red, White & Blue!
- **Picture Day** is September 13th.
- **PTO Event - Leeds Farm** is Friday, September 29th in the evening

Until next month...

~Mr. Howell