

June 2017

Dear Incoming Second Graders and Parents,

We hope you have a fabulous summer and are looking forward to seeing you in the fall! While you are relaxing and spending time with family this summer, remember to keep your brain active. We always encourage parents to help keep their child's skills sharp, as the more you do with your children over the summer, the easier the transition is on him/her at the start of the next school year. Research shows that students can regress significantly over the summer if they do not read daily or practice their learned skills.

To help maintain your child's academic growth, we suggest creating a daily routine this summer that includes some of the activities and information below. We have compiled this list of activities for your child to work on over the summer. Keep in mind that your vacation settings are wonderful experiences for the children, use these experiences to practice some of these concepts.

**Suggested Reading List:**

*Frog and Toad* books by Arnold Lobel

*Henry and Mudge* series

"I Can Read" books, Level 2

*Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown* by Paula Dangizer

*Nate the Great* series

*Junie B. Jones* series

*Cam Jansen* series

*Jigsaw Jones Mysteries*

*Magic Tree House* series

*A-Z Mystery* series

*Calendar Mystery* series

*Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume

**Language Arts (Reading and Writing):** Read, Read, and Read! ☺ As they always say, "**Readers are Leaders!**" The more you read the more you know. Read everything and anything that is interesting to you such as books, newspapers, magazines for kids, etc.

- ***REQUIRED PROJECT:*** After reading one of the suggested books, **design a poster** to represent the story. Include things like the title, author, main characters, and setting. **Please have your child bring this poster on the first day of school as we will be sharing these with each other.**
  
- After reading one of the suggested books, write a **play** to go along with the story and present it to family or friends. Writing a new ending, a spin off of the story, or even coming up with your own project for sharing the story are other great ideas.
  
- **Keep a summer journal or make a summer scrapbook** to practice writing skills. Vacations are the perfect facilitators of this project. Make it a keepsake by teaching your child how to take photos and make a scrapbook journal with captions as well as paragraphs discussing magical moments. Trips to the beach, park, and even grandma's house make excellent journal entries as well. Set up a bag at the beginning of the summer with a camera, pencils, colored pencils, and a notebook, etc. that you will have to easily grab when the moment is right!
  
- **Make the grocery list** when you are going to the store. Provide many different opportunities to write.
  
- After reading one of the suggested books, go to this internet link:  
[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/reading\\_cards\\_2/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/reading_cards_2/)  
Follow the steps given and make two or three **character cards**. Bring your cards in to share these the first week of school.
  
- After reading one of the suggested books, go to this internet link: <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/comic/>  
Follow the directions to **make a comic strip** that tells about one scene of the book. When you are finished, print it out! Bring in your comic strip to share with the class the first week of school.
  
- **Enroll in Book Adventures.**  
(<http://www.bookadventure.com/Home.aspx> )

This is a free website that encourages students to read a book, then take an online test to assess their reading comprehension.

- **Write and illustrate your own books.** Write stories using complete sentences, adjectives and proper punctuation.
- **Go to the Public Library and get a library card.** Library cards are free! Spend quality time reading. Ask your child questions to assess his/her comprehension. Many times the library has summer activities for children that help encourage a love of reading.

### **Mathematics:**

Have your child practice all math facts (addition and subtraction 0-20). Having these math facts memorized is one of the best ways to help prepare them for success in math. If your child knows them readily, they can spend more time focusing on new concepts versus the facts. If your child struggles with their facts, doing two and three-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping is very difficult! It can become quite frustrating and will definitely not help his/her math self – esteem. As well, knowing addition facts truly helps when learning multiplication facts.

- Make addition and subtraction **flashcards** and practice these as often as you can each week. Try to set a goal of practicing at least three times per week, by yourself, or with an older sibling/parent.
- **Fact CD songs** can be purchased at learning stores to play in the car when you are on the go this summer. If your child is proficient with his/her addition and subtraction math facts, you may want to purchase a multiplication song CD. This is a fun way to start to learn these facts.
- **Websites.** There are tons of websites that can turn math practice into games. Try to play for 20 minutes at least three times a week throughout the summer. Keep a chart and record your time to see your improvement. This will also remind you to practice.

- **Brain Pop Jr. Math Games**  
(<http://www.brainpopjr.com/games/math/> )
- **Math Magician** (<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/mathmagician/cathymath.html> )  
This is a free web site where you can practice your addition and subtraction math facts to actually earn certificates. It is timed so record your time and watch yourself improve.
- **IXL** (<http://www.ixl.com/math/grade-2> )
- **Math Fact Café** (<http://www.mathfactcafe.com/> )
- **Khan Academy** (<https://www.khanacademy.org/> )
- **Cool Math** (<http://www.coolmath.com/> )

**Other Mathematics concepts to practice:**

- **Practice Telling Time:** Telling time to the hour, half hour (half past), and quarter hour (quarter past or quarter to). Have your child wear an analog watch on vacation and make a habit of asking him/her the time or have them be in charge of telling you when it is “time” to be somewhere.
- **Practice Money Concepts:** (quarter, dime, nickel, and penny). Have your child purchase items on vacation or play “store.” Practice counting money, buying items, and making change. Have your child make a grocery list and allow them a certain budget. Have them shop and make decisions regarding “the better deal,” etc. Hands on experiences with this concept and vocabulary give them valuable connections to utilize while learning in the classroom.
- **Practice Measurement Concepts:** (inches, centimeters, feet, cup, pint, quarts, half-gallon, gallon, liter). There’s no better way to deal with these than in real life situations. Have your child bake with you and measure out the ingredients. When the

opportunity arises, have them measure using inches, feet, etc. These experiences allow the students to easily make connections when we cover these concepts in class.

- **Problem solving:** Provide real life mathematical experiences for your child to solve. (For example, if I only have 50 cents, do I have enough to buy a pencil and an eraser? If I have 20 M&M's and I eat 9, how many will I have left?)
  
- **Fractions:** Real life situations again are wonderful ways to reinforce these concepts. For example, when making pancakes have your child help measure the ingredients. Discuss items such as the amount of eggs in a dozen. Then have them use two eggs and discuss how that was  $\frac{2}{12}$ ths of the dozen of eggs. Have them cut up a pizza with you and discuss how many pieces were cut and what fraction of the pizza was eaten.

Have a fun and safe summer!

**The Second Grade Team ☺**