

Dear Parents,

We're busy getting ready for our upcoming conferences! Right now, your child is thinking hard about their school work. They are looking at what they liked about their learning and are setting big goals for doing even better. We look forward to meeting with you and your child during conference week. Please fill out the parent questionnaire if you have not already done so.

We're happy to say that our students are now using a new, fun tool called eSpark. It lets us tailor reading and math lessons to each student's needs. Our students took a placement test to show us their skill levels and where they need extra help. eSpark lets us improve these areas in an enjoyable and educational way. Last week, we switched our usual ALEK time to eSpark for reading and math. We thank you for your support during this change. Students will go back to ALEKs next week.

After our Unit 2 test, we saw that many of our students could use extra practice in basic addition and subtraction. We're starting to learn multiplication facts soon. We think being good at addition and subtraction will help your child a lot. We hope you can pull out those flashcards and other resources from 2nd grade and spend time working on them each night. We will be assigning from eSpark some addition and subtraction skills to those who need it. Look for additional resources to be given out at conferences.

Next week's science mysteries will teach us about selection and its different causes. The children will find out that selection is not just caused by humans but also by other things. An example used will be of two kinds of lizards in Florida. This activity helps the children understand "natural selection." Your child will come across this idea many times in their science studies. You can find a more detailed story at this link:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-evolution-green-brown-lizards-20141101-story.html>.

We will also look at how being social helps animals to stay alive. We will discover that being part of a group helps many types of animals survive, like wolves, meerkats, ravens, and ants. You can support your child's curiosity at home! Look for different animals near your home, and ask your child (for each animal), "Do you think it lives in a group? How do you think living in a group helps it survive?"

Please support the warm clothing and bring in any warm clothing in good condition. The last day to bring in items is Friday, November, 17th.

Important Dates

11/10 - No School - Veterans Day
11/13 - 27 - Book Fair in the auditorium
11/20 - 22 - Student-led Conferences (In-person)
11/23 - 24 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
11/29 - Mass grades 3-8 (8:45am)
12/1 - End of first trimester
12/8 - Report cards go home
12/8 - All-school Mass (9:30 am) Feast of the Immaculate Conception
12/13 - Christmas Program (6:30 pm)

Enjoy the long weekend,
Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith