



# SECOND GRADE NEWSLETTER

**December 2016**

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	<b>Becoming Experts: Non Fiction Reading</b>	Students will continue to be immersed in Non Fiction texts during the month of December. We will continue the work we have begun, growing knowledge as we pay attention to details, put parts of text together, and question texts. We will delve further into tackling the tricky word work and vocabulary development students need to navigate NF reading. Finally, we will begin working on building our young readers up to grow knowledge across texts as they read topic sets of texts, comparing, contrasting and connecting information across texts. At home, please read with your child and ask them, "What have you learned so far? How does this topic connect with other books you have read?"
Writing	<b>Writing as Experts</b>	As Writing Workshop continues in the genre of Informational Writing, the students will amp up their skills and write new Nonfiction books. The main focus is now for students to elaborate and say more about their topic. Students should include a topic sentence, facts and details, and finally a concluding sentence for each chapter. In addition, they will be using transitional phrases to add details. To support your child at home, ask them to retell chapters or pages in their nonfiction texts.
Math	<b>2-Digit Addition and Subtraction</b>	In this unit of study our focus is adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. Students will be applying place value concepts when using the break-apart strategy. They will also be using standard algorithm along with the strategy <i>draw a diagram</i> to represent 2-digit addition and subtraction word problems. At home, please help your child by giving them extra problems to solve such as $123+345=$ ___ and $345-234=$ ___ and using the break apart strategy that you will find in their notebooks.
Science	<b>Earth Materials</b>	In the beginning of December we will be completing our study of earth materials. For the completion of this study we will be doing an experiment on weathering of rocks. We will then finish off our month of December getting in to our new science unit, which is forces and motion. At home, you can support your child by taking out books or looking up simple experiments in forces and motion. If possible, discuss these concepts with your child and how they affect our everyday lives.
Social Studies	<b>NYC Over Time</b>	We will be learning about how New York City has changed over time. Our first focus will be how NYC buildings have changed over time, and why they have had to change throughout history. The children will be learning through content-based instruction, where they will be learning new material on the content, as well as language functions throughout texts. They will be exploring media/technology, article based reading, novel/picture book based texts, as well as writing about the amazing journey that NYC has gone through to become what it is today. Encourage your child to explore NYC with you! Take a weekend trip into Manhattan and stop when you come to a famous landmark (building) or a structure you know has been there for quite some time. Talk about how it is different from the buildings we know of and live in today. Go out into NYC and become historians together!

## Focus of the Month: Technology

This month we will be focusing on the use of technology in our classrooms. As you know, in addition to our amazing Smartboards, which make learning come alive for our students, we have many iPads and laptop computers that are available to students across the school day. Our teachers are exploring and introducing new apps and websites that your child can use to enhance their learning, visualize concepts, demonstrate their thinking and of course, keep them engaged in their learning. Your child will be using technology to do such things as watching videos that support their content learning, using manipulatives to help them visualize math concepts, help them research topics they are learning about, and be assessed as they work giving teachers information about what students have mastered and what they need support in. The implications of technology in the classroom are far reaching and the possibilities seem endless! Their computer skills will grow as they do, and make them better prepared to be successful in our ever-changing world. Please ask your child to tell you about the amazing websites and apps that are being used in his or her classroom. If possible, allow them to use them at home to further support their learning.