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SECOND GRADE NEWSLETTER

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Studying Characters and Their Stories	We will be moving back into fiction this month, focusing on characters and how they develop over the course of a book. As we've developed as readers over these first few months of second grade, we are approaching books that are more challenging. They are longer, with more characters, more episodes, more chapters, and more complex phrases to understand. We will be growing ideas about our characters based on what we observe while reading. Students will be digging more deeply into the stories they are reading in order to make inferences about their characters as well. Students should choose books with interesting, entertaining characters. Some suggestions: <u>Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon</u> by Patty Lovell; <u>Ruby the Copycat</u> by Peggy Rathman.
Writing	Writing Gripping Fictional Stories	We're heading back into fiction writing, however now we will be trying to further develop our writing by writing powerful personal narratives. Students will think about small moments from their lives and what they know about writing with details and suspense to write lots of interesting fictional stories. Then, they will revise those stories by thinking about the big changes they can make and how they can stretch out the most important parts. They should think of this as the "heart" of their story and stretch it out to complicate the problem and build tension for their reader. Try talking to your child about moments from their lives where they had a very strong emotion. This could help them start getting ready for writing these gripping stories!
Math	2-Digit Subtraction	In this unit of study our focus is subtracting 2-digit numbers. Students will be applying place value concepts when using the break-apart strategy. They will also be using the standard algorithm along with the strategy <i>draw a diagram</i> to represent 2-digit addition and subtraction word problems. Students will encounter a bigger challenge while trying to solve multistep problems. They should be thinking about how to decide what steps to take and which operations to use while analyzing multistep problems. Suggested site: www.hoodamath.com
Science	Forces and Motion	We will be diving "full force" into our unit on "Forces and Motion." In this unit, students will be learning about the different types of forces in our world and how things are put into motion. We will be conducting in-classroom experiments to test out some of the ideas we will be discussing. At home, you can discuss every-day occurrences of forces and motion that your child might see, for example a can opener, the doorknob opening the door, or your child running across the school yard. Students will be surprised by the forces and motion all around them!
Social Studies	NYC Over Time	We are continuing our unit on how New York City has changed over time. We will be thinking about the transportation in New York City and how it has developed over time (which is why we all took a trolley ride around the neighborhood). Additionally, we will be studying immigrants entering New York City years ago and what life was like for them – tenement living in particular. A great way to connect your child with this part of the unit would be to visit the Tenement Museum right here in NYC for a first hand look at what a tenement was like.

Focus of the Month: Reading

This month's focus is reading. The students have been working hard throughout the first few months of second grade to become even stronger readers. We've already covered both fiction and nonfiction units and students now have a strong understanding of the similarities and differences between the two. Students in second grade should be working toward understanding more complex texts as the year progresses. Expect to see your child coming home with more challenging books and hopefully discussing their ideas with you. By the end of the year, second graders should reach the grade level standard reading level of M. As students approach this level, they will start to notice more characters in their books who are going through more challenges. Settings might change from chapter to chapter and storylines might become harder to follow. Encourage your child to use all of the strategies we have gone over throughout the year to help them overcome any challenges they might encounter as they move on to these higher level books.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Return to school: Tuesday, January 2, 2018
 Friday, January 12 – Family Friday (Reading)
 Monday, January 15 – No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
 Thursday, February 1 – Trip to see Charlotte's Web