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# SECOND GRADE NEWSLETTER

## P.S. 24 Queens November 2017

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| SUBJECT        | TOPIC   | SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Reading        | Growing Like Beanstalks/<br>Becoming Experts:<br>Nonfiction Reading | At the beginning of the month, we will be continuing to “Grow Like Beanstalks” as readers figuring out tricky words and making strong connections between our reading and writing, emulating authors’ craft moves (such as those of Jane Yolen in <i>Owl Moon</i> ). We will then begin our first nonfiction unit which is divided into three parts. Students will start off by growing their knowledge of a topic by reading all about it and making connections between different parts of their texts. Then, they will tackle that challenging vocabulary they find, in order to navigate their nonfiction books. The final part is when they become true “experts” and make connections between texts. You can help your child by talking about nonfiction topics they’re interested in; reading magazines such as “TIME for Kids” and “Scholastic News” (which we use in school); and visiting websites such as: <a href="http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/">http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/</a>   |
| Writing        | Nonfiction Writing:<br>All About Book                               | This month the students will be writing nonfiction books, teaching others about a topic they know a lot about. There will be a strong connection between reading and writing (as there always is), as students take what they are seeing in the nonfiction texts they are reading and apply it to their own informational writing pieces. Students will work on including such features as a glossary, pictures with captions, bold/italicized key words, and many other nonfiction text features to enhance their pieces. They want to keep their reader in mind as they teach others about their topic. Your child can practice by writing about a game they know how to play or explain how to cook their favorite meal. Talk to them about riding their scooter and taking care of it, or how they walk to school. These are all possible topic ideas for your child. Look at nonfiction books at home or from the library and point out the features they may want to include in their own books. Some suggestions: <i>Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum</i> by Meghan McCarthy; any of the National Geographic Kids books; <i>Amazing Animals: Elephants</i> by Kate Riggs |
| Math           | Basic Facts and Relationships                                       | We will be working on those basic facts that help us when we are trying to solve more challenging problems. We will go back over strategies such as “doubles facts,” “doubles plus one or two,” the “make-a-ten” strategy, as well as others to help the students understand what the numbers they are adding or subtracting actually mean. We will be moving into making equal groups which is actually an introduction into multiplication and division. You can visit such sites as <a href="http://Mathblaster.com">http://Mathblaster.com</a> in order to help your child find a fun, interesting way to practice math skills.   |
| Science        | Earth Materials   | For the month of November, we are continuing to study Earth Materials. We will be tackling complex texts and deconstructing juicy sentences. We will be studying parts of language to help us understand those juicy sentences. For example, we will notice that the phrase ‘just as’ is used in a sentence to help us compare two different things. (Ex: <u>Just as</u> rose quartz has a pink coloring from minerals inside it, amethyst has a purple coloring from the minerals inside it.) We will continue to focus on science content vocabulary through read alouds. Ask your child to tell you about what they are learning about rocks. Read library books about rocks with them to reinforce what they are learning and to build their knowledge.   |
| Social Studies | Rules, Rights & Responsibilities                                    | We will be continuing on in our journey to discover the true importance of government and democracy. This month’s focus will be on voting and the democratic process. Children will participate in the close reading of texts to thoughtfully research how voting is the foundation of our democratic nation. They will also participate in immersive groups where they explore the concept of voting through media sources, short texts and inquiry style work. At home, take a trip to the library with your child or to a museum to further foster their curiosity in our nation’s founding concepts.  |

### Focus of the Month: Close Reading in Science

When we want to truly learn more about a topic, we find a nonfiction book or article and study it. We read it more than one time. We take it paragraph-by-paragraph or sentence-by-sentence in order to look very closely at what the author is teaching us and gain a deep understanding of the topic. You and your child can visit the library or look on the Internet for books and articles about a topic your child is interested in. Think about the key vocabulary your child will be learning related to that topic and look for pictures to go along with those words so they are familiar with the meanings. Read the book or article more than one time. Each time, your child may learn something new. Break apart sentences in order to truly understand what the author is trying to teach you. Students will have a great time focusing very closely on a topic they want to know more about.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Thursday, November 2 – Green Meadows Farm trip  
 Tuesday, November 7 – Election Day (No School For Students)  
 Thursday, November 23-Friday, November 24 – Thanksgiving (No School For Students)  
 Sunday, November 5 – Daylight Savings (Change the Clocks)  
 Thursday, November 16 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Half-Day For Students)  
 \*Swim: Mondays – Class 2-113 \*Tuesdays – Class 2-213