



St. Edmund's Academy

Second Grade May, June 2011 Newsletter

Notes from Homeroom Teachers

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continuous help and support throughout the school year. You have helped to make this year successful, exciting, and enjoyable for all of the children. As teachers, we have truly enjoyed this special year with our students. Enjoy your summer, and we will see you next year!

Sincerely,

Lybbie Bogaty and

Rachael Schwartzmiller

Virtue of the Month for May: Hope

Hope is finding the light in the darkness, and trusting in right endings. To raise people who live in hope is to form individuals who will engage. People who hope, like people who love, are catalysts for constructive change and a brighter future!

Virtue of the Month for June: Heroism

In June, we will study heroism in order to distinguish a hero from a celebrity. Heroes are remembered for noble and worthy deeds. They take noble action for a good cause.

Important Dates to Remember

Thursday May 3rd
New Parent Reception in the Library from 5:30 to 6:30

Friday, May 4th
The Greek Festival begins with the children's reports in the second grade classrooms at 1:30 and will continue until 2:45.

Monday, May 9th through Friday May 13th
ERB Testing Week

Wednesday, May 18th
Lower School Fine Arts Festival

Friday, May 20th
Dress Down Day for 50 cents

Monday, May 30th
No School
Memorial Day

Thursday, June 2nd
Rainforest Festival begins in the classrooms at 1:00 and will continue until 2:30.

Monday, June 6th
Dress Down for Field Day
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8th
Last Day of School

11:00 a.m. Moving Up Day
Ceremony

12:00 noon dismissal

4:30 p.m. Eighth grade
Graduation

Mathematics

Our main chapter of study is geometry. The children will develop their spatial awareness by exploring solid figures (cubes, spheres, cones, etc.) and two-dimensional figures (circles, trapezoids, pentagons, etc.) These figures will be compared, sorted and classified through the use of manipulatives, SmartBoard activities, and selected tasks in the classroom as well as from the Internet.

As a morning starter, the children will practice working with patterns. They will identify, describe, and extend sequence patterns.

Measurement, with a focus on determining area and perimeter, will also be introduced and practiced.

Word Study

Although it's hard to believe, we have only four remaining units of spelling to study. Group One will begin the month of May reading, sorting and writing words with vowel digraphs *aw* and *au* as in *sauce* and *paw*. Group Two will focus on triple r-blends *scr*, *str*, and *spr* as in *scrap* and *spray*. During the following week, the week of May 9th, we will not have spelling due to ERB testing. We prefer to limit homework throughout this testing week. In our final sorts for the year, a more challenging one, the children in Group One will spell words with silent beginning consonants *kn*, *wr*, and *gn*. Group Two will study words with the endings *-ce*, *-ve*, and *-se*.

Social Studies

Our goal in our study of government is for the students to have a basic understanding of the key people involved in local, state, and national governments. We also want them to recognize the three

branches of government and understand the role each of them has in our democracy.

In order to complete our study of *Maps, Charts, and Graphs*, we will provide further practice in map interpretation. We will finalize this unit with additional practice in using pictographs, tally charts, bar graphs, and flow charts.

Literature/Writing

The second graders are busy learning about the rainforest! We will read The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry as well as Life in the Rainforests by Lucy Baker. We will also enjoy educational videos on animals of the rainforest. Our final writing project this year involves researching and writing a report on a rainforest animal. After the children learn to take notes without copying the text verbatim, they will research for information during computer and library classes and then write their report in the classroom. To complement this report, we ask that the children work at home to create a 3-D habitat featuring the animal they have chosen. Our Rainforest Festival will feature these projects and written reports. More information will be sent home soon.

Art

We will draw some fancy cats this month. The students will learn how to draw a cat by using shape and line. Also, we will make landscape silhouettes out of cut and torn paper. If we have time and the weather cooperates, we will spend some time outside sketching. I have really enjoyed working with the second grade. The year went by so quickly!

Music

The second grade has been refining their music theory skills in class. We are learning about music through technology by using a new computer program called "Music Ace Maestro." This fun, interactive program is teaching our second graders about reading notes, rhythms, and recognizing instruments. We are also looking forward to our Fine Arts Festival on May 18th! Our students will prepare a spring concert and a talent show. We will provide more details about this event very soon!

World Cultures

We are finishing the year with our unit on Ancient Greece. The students will continue to learn about Greek theater, architecture and even more mythology. Thank you to all of the parents and volunteers who have come in to help in the

classroom and to organize the Greek Festival this year. I have appreciated all of the support and I know the children have enjoyed your visits! Thanks for a great year.

Computer

The second grade will be working on several items in computer class through the remainder of the year. The students will complete using the Internet and Encarta Kids to find the necessary information for their rain forest projects. The students will also be using this information to design a basic Power Point presentation. The students will use the research and a basic template to format text, titles, and images in a Power Point presentation. Students will have the opportunity to share their presentations with their peers.

Library

Second Grade will begin May with researching a rainforest animal in conjunction with their classroom rainforest project. They will begin with the general reference encyclopedia, either printed or online, followed by using the card catalog to find books on animals in the rainforest. They will use these materials to gather facts on their animals. Following our research project, we will be reading several books nominated for the

Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards. They will have an opportunity to vote on their favorites! The Reading Counts competition will end by the middle of May to allow time to award prizes. In addition, please help your child remember to return any checked-out books during the week of May 23rd.

PE

During May, St. Edmund's second graders will have a chance to choose the activities for a P.E. class. Each student will be responsible for planning a class period with their favorite warm-up and their favorite unit activity. This is a fun way to review many of the different units, skills, and activities that we have learned throughout this year.

Science

Our final unit in science is a Life Science unit called "Plant and Animal Populations." Students will conduct a field count of local plants and animals which will lay the groundwork to help students understand how and why populations interact and fluctuate. Students will observe and count a number of different kinds of plants and animals growing, reproducing, and dying. Then, they will graph the results to discover that populations of ants, fruit flies,

daphnia, and aphids increase and decrease. Time permitting, teams of four will design and perform experiments testing impacts of varying temperatures, food, light levels, living spaces, and, finally, predators (damselfly nymphs and ladybugs) on population size.

