



St. Edmund's Academy

Second Grade May/June 2010 Newsletter



SUMMER SUCCESS FOR THIRD GRADE

The summer is a time to relax and enjoy time with friends and family. It's time to play outside and take vacations. Yet, there are a few small things you can do with your child to help him or her enter the third grade with confidence.

First, don't forget to continue reading! Visits to the library or your favorite bookstore can be a great way to spend time with your child. One required reading book title will be sent home at the end of the year, but we hope the children will read a lot over the summer. Other recommended titles are available on the SEA website, but what's most important is that your child keeps reading. Taking magazines along with you on trips is one fun way to encourage reading.

Additionally, remember to keep you child's writing skills sharp! How about writing letters or emails to friends or family members?

Continued practice with basic addition and subtraction facts is also important. Practicing quick recall of facts this summer will only benefit your child next year. Flashcards, computer games, board games, or just simple question and answer sessions will all work!

Have a wonderful summer!

Notes from Homeroom Teachers

ERB testing will take place the week of May 10th. We will administer the tests sometime between 8:15 and 11:25 each day. Please make sure your child is well rested and has enjoyed a nourishing breakfast! Sending in a healthy snack is strongly encouraged. We find that working so hard makes us hungry! The second grade will also take a break from Spelling during ERB testing week. This will allow for more time in our schedule for testing and reduce the homework for students on test days.

Thank you for a wonderful school year!

Important Dates to Remember

Friday, May 7

Greek Festival, 1:30 PM

Monday, May 10 - Friday, May 14

ERB Testing

Friday, May 14

Greek Festival Rain Date, 1:30 PM

Begins with readings in individual classrooms

Thursday, May 20

Lower School Fine Arts Festival, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 26

Rain Forest Festival, 1:00 PM

Begins with readings in individual classrooms

Monday, May 31

NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 2

Moving Up Ceremony, 11:00 AM

Following the ceremony, children will return to the classroom to resume their regular school day.

NO hot lunch available, brown bag lunches available for purchase

Friday, June 4

Field Day AND Last Day of School (Full Day)

NO hot lunch available, brown bag lunches available for purchase

Language Arts

Word Study

Although it's hard to believe, we have only three remaining units of spelling to study. We begin the month of May reading, sorting and writing words with sounds spelled *oi* as in point or *oy* as in boy. During the following week, the week of May 10th, we will not have spelling due to ERB testing. We prefer to limit homework throughout this testing week. The third week, the week of May 17th, we will resume spelling and sort words with the short u sound as in good and the long u sound as in soon. In our final sort, a more challenging one, the children will spell words with *aw* as in saw and *au* as in caught.

Writing

For the beginning of May, we will continue our poetry study. As they complete each poem, it is published into each student's own book of poetry, which will make an excellent keepsake. As a culminating activity, we will have our own "poetry recital" where students will have an opportunity to read selected poems aloud to their classmates. Concurrently, students will work on their rainforest animal reports. Instruction will emphasize organization and conventions to showcase students' end of year writing. After the reports are written, students will have time to conclude the year with writing of their choice. We will focus on incorporating all learned writing traits into each piece.

Literature

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 project this year involves researching and writing a report on a rainforest animal. The children 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.

Math

After finishing our study on geometric figures and patterns, students will learn about measurement. In this unit, the children will measure length, perimeter, area, weight, mass, capacity, and temperature in both the standard and metric systems. We'll have fun measuring around the room!

Our final units of the year will focus on fractions and whole numbers. The children will learn to read, write, compare, and order fractions and whole numbers to 1,000. Practice adding and subtracting three-digit numbers will also be emphasized.

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.

Another area of emphasis as we end the year is map skills. We hope to develop our students' ability to understand maps, charts and graphs. For instance, the children will read map symbols, map keys, and directions and use map scales. They will read road maps as well as follow directions on a map.

Notes from Specials Teachers

Art

The students will be learning about the architecture style of Frank Ghery. Each student will create their own art museum based on their interpretations of Ghery's architecture. The students will also be creating miniature paintings and sculptures that will be placed in their model museum. If we have time, we will also go outside and practice sketching from nature. It has been a great year in art!

Music

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 20th for our annual Fine Arts Festival! Your children will be performing in the spring concert at 6:00, and may also choose to participate in our lower school talent show immediately following. Also at our Fine Arts Festival is our Art Show! Come and see our students' artwork on display in the hallways. More information will be coming out very shortly for this event. We hope that most of you can join us on May 20th!

World Cultures

We will be 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 a World Cultures project in the computer lab. Students will be using Microsoft Word to complete a poster about a Greek God or Goddess he or she is studying with Mrs. Gray. The students will be using various tools including the text tool. Drawing tools, Word Art tools, and clip art tools. The students will also be learning how to safely look on the Internet to find information and images to represent a topic.

Physical Education

St. Edmund's second graders will be participating in a variety of physical education units throughout the rest of the school year. We will follow the track and field unit with relay races and obstacle courses, designed to continue the development of motor skills and body control. Sport specific skills will be included in the relays and obstacle courses to give the students an opportunity to practice and improve upon these elements. Then we will have a base games unit that will give the students a chance to play kickball, tee ball, and mat ball. Finally, we will have Tennis and Lacrosse units that will introduce the sport and we will work to develop the skills needed to successfully play those games.

Science

As young scientists, the second grade will finish out the year identifying the three common states of matter using blocks, balloons, and beakers. Using a variety of lab tools they will observe, explore and measure solids, liquids, and gases and investigate the processes of changing from one into another. As we conduct melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation experiments, they learn the importance of controlling variables and keeping records. If time permits, we will conclude the unit on "States of Matter" by making ice cream for a "Matter Matters" party.

Library

Second Grade will begin May with research work on a rainforest animal. They will begin with general reference sources such as the encyclopedia, either printed or online, and then look up specific books on their selected animal. Next, they will learn one way to make a book. Our final product will be an address book they can use to record addresses of family and friends. Since summer vacation is not far off, we will look at books they might enjoy reading over the summer break, and they will bring home information on the summer reading programs at the Carnegie Library in Oakland. The *Reading Counts* competition will end on May 8th. Classroom winners and prizes will be announced the following week. In addition, please help your child remember to return any checked-out books during the week of May 24th.