

September Newsletter

September 12, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the cooler days of summer. Fall will soon sneak into our September days as Jack Frost shakes the leaves off the trees with his frosty breath of wind. Are you ready for a world made more colorful with red, yellow, and orange sponges splashed across our trees and lawns. I hope everyone got a chance to spend some time outside this past weekend.

Hats off to David Bernier, our first classroom helper! David was leading our second grade line here and there and there and here through our bright hallways of Canaan Elementary School. David did a great job passing out and collecting papers to and from students in lickety-split time. Thank you, David, for your great helper-spirit!

Congratulations to Jon Harvey! Jon was the first to pass our math speed test 1. Jon gets a prize for speeding along and answering fifty math facts in two minutes. Jon wasted no time when the clock started ticking. Now, that's amazing!

In math, students worked on time to the hour and half-hour these past days of school. Students also answered questions about the date and the calendar. How many days in September? How many days in a week? Name the days of the week. Name the months of the year. We also practiced counting using the quarter. How many quarters equal a dollar? Two dollars? Who is the person on the front of the quarter? Students worked on finding the greatest number in a set of addends to help process math facts quicker. We will review our math skills and begin counting dimes this week. How many dimes equal a dollar?

Who is the person on the dime? What symbols are on the back of the dime?

Today we will walk and record the number of laps on our bar graphs. How many laps will you walk in a half-hour? What will our bar graph look like? How will we use it to compare the laps we walk each day as an individual? Why is exercise important?

Students are beginning reading and writing workshop with much success. Many students are already reading chapter books. I can tell that there has been some great summer reading to help us stay brain-healthy. I spied Sean Bellner reading one of the series of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid. I spotted Camryn Atwood enjoying the antics of Garfield. Lilly Ann Flanders was busy reading, with expression, Mean Jean, the Recess Queen to a fellow student at the end of the day this past Thursday. Morgan Savoy was busy reading nonfiction books about frogs, while JoDee Dorr was discovering what pandas eat.

Interesting stories are being written in the morning by creative authors . We are focusing on handwriting to help us make our writing more legible to read. I have signed up students for sharing days. Which stories will you share this week? You will get three questions and/or positive comments about your pieces from peers.

In science, students will become amateur entomologists as they take care of their own insects. Students will receive their vials and mealworms to observe in the next two to three weeks. Get ready to make some diagrams about your insects. What is a diagram? What important things do we need to consider as we take care of our mealworms? What do all creatures need in order to survive?

It was such a treat to see all of the wonderful grandparents and other relatives take part in a get-together lunch at our very

cool school on Friday! Many students gave their grandparents and parents a tour of their second grade classroom along with a Happy Grandparent Day message on a creative card welcoming them to school. It was a great day!

We will continue to learn our routines. Remember that we are active learners, so don't forget to wear your sneakers for walking and playing. Gym is on Tuesday morning. Don't forget those sneakers, students! Pack and unpack your backpack every night to stay organized.

Parents and students should work together on setting up a routine to do homework and read with their child each evening. Fifteen to twenty minutes of homework and ten to fifteen minutes of reading is a good time for students to spend on those tasks each evening. Reading to, reading together, or listening to your child read is a great way to spend quality time together. Homework should be looked at as a positive way for children to practice skills that will help them become better thinkers. Being responsible is something that needs to be practiced. Students should be encouraged to write their own thoughts to the questions to develop fluency with writing ideas. Students may not finish all of their work during the week. That's okay this first trimester. Parents, if the homework is challenging for your child, have him try one or two questions on each page until he/she develops more stamina for focus on homework and reading. Please encourage your child to pass in their packet and reading record each week even if it is not finished.

The homework packet given at the beginning of the week is due Friday. The reading record can be turned in on Friday or Monday if your child does weekend reading and wants to add more books to his/her list.

I encourage much reading and discussions of books between parents and kids. Reading and discussing a book is such a great

way to get to know each other better. Try it! Students will practice the spelling words at school each day. If you have time, ask your child to spell three or four words each night. Spelling tests will be given on Friday afternoon.

Let's make great choices today! Let's be positive role models for others! How will you make this day better for yourself and someone else? Have a wonderful week filled with second grade adventures!

Mrs. Forgue