



November Newsletter

A Super Second Grade Classroom

Welcome to the third month of second grade. I can't believe we are already approaching Thanksgiving and parent teacher conference time. I am looking forward to speaking with all of you.

October was a great month for working on science, social studies, and health. The students are enjoying our Earth's Features unit. We have been learning many interesting things about nature. The books, pictures, and postcards in the science kit are so much fun to share in class. Learning about the natural forces, such as wind and water erosion, that help shape the landforms of our earth, has amazed our class. We have learned about coastal areas, oceans, plains, rivers, lakes, and mountains. The children have been matching different items from a treasure chest, such as corn, sand, seashells, rocks, and a bobber, to proper landforms. They are having a great time using their detective skills to determine where different earth features can be found in our country.

Also in October, we continued our community lessons in social studies. We learned how we can help our country by being good citizens. We read many books about the workers in our community. Learning about urban, suburban, and rural areas can be a bit confusing at times. However, we will continue to work on activities in class to practice these terms.

We will be finishing chapter 2 and working on chapter 4 of our health program this month. We will learn how important it is to exercise, eat healthful meals, and get the sleep we need each night.

Thank you for all of the wonderful notes and emails. It is nice to have open lines of communication with parents. I enjoy hearing from you, and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Have a nice November!



Homework



At this time, the children should be taking on more responsibility for their assignments. They should be handing you any papers you need to sign, and asking you to sign them. Please encourage your child to read his or her assignments to you, or with you. Also, please encourage your child to check his or her book bag each day before school for the things that need to be brought back to school. Our scheduled library book exchange is on Tuesdays.

My motto for homework is: do what you can, when you can, how you can. I understand not every child will be able to complete all assignments due to family schedules, and that is okay. I will correct what is returned, and help review skills as necessary.



Reading and Writing



One important skill we have been working on in reading groups is answering comprehension questions completely and correctly. The children often do not look back in the passages or books to get the correct answers to questions. I have been modeling how they should read a question, think about the answer, look up the answer, and then select the best answer out of a set of multiple choices. I am also teaching the children how to write responses to comprehension questions in complete and correct sentences using proper spelling and grammar. We use our glossaries frequently to help us understand vocabulary terms, and our indexes to look up topics we want to discuss.

In writing, we have been focusing on how to write in an organized way. I have been modeling how to write a paragraph using a topic sentence and specific details to support the main idea. Using a closing sentence has been introduced. We have been practicing our writing skills using the Step Up To Writing process. We use our Quick Word Books to look up how to spell words.



Social Studies



At the beginning of November, we will be focusing on learning about Election Day and Veterans Day. By the middle of the month, we will begin working on our Thanksgiving lessons and activities. The children will be learning when Election Day is, what Election Day is, and why it is important. We will be reading books and completing whole class activities to help in our learning.

After Election Day, we will focus on Veterans Day. Again, we will learn when we celebrate Veterans Day, why we celebrate this special day, and why it is important.

For Thanksgiving, we will be reading and analyzing poems, reading non-fiction books, comparing long ago and today, and completing fun activities to learn more about this special holiday.



Parent Portal



Please make sure you are checking the parent portal weekly. I also use the parent portal as a communication tool to let parents know information about specific assignments. Our grading system varies between grades of S (Secure), D (Developing), N (Needs Improvement), and number rubric scoring of 1,2,3, and 4. Report cards are no longer sent home. All information is on the parent portal.

Remember to call Hillview's attendance line at 686-3282 if your child will be absent or late to school. This helps our office staff with their efficient record keeping.



Book orders are due the morning of Friday, November 12th.

Checks and money orders need to be made out to the company listed on the form. Please do not send cash.

If you order online, our code is NQHP8.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conference sign up information will be coming home soon. I am looking forward to discussing your child's academic progress. I will also let you know how your child is interacting with his or her peers. If you would like to discuss any other information, you will have a chance to write the topics for discussion on a confirmation sheet that I will send home after conferences are scheduled. Please know that I am available by phone and email daily. You do not have to wait until conference time to contact me if you have questions. The same goes for after conferences. Please do not hesitate to call or email.

Happy November Birthday Wishes!

Isabella 11th



Some thoughts to start the holiday season!

Always be positive.

Invest in children.

The cheapest and most valuable gift is kindness.

Success is not defined by obtaining everything you want,
but by appreciating everything you have.

All sayings were taken from 365 Meditations for Teachers by Greg Henry Quinn