



Mrs. Bennett's Second Grade News

September 21st - 25th 2009



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the evenings of October 6th, 8th, and 14th. In the next couple of weeks, you will be able to check the Douglass website www.douglasselementary.com for the conference sign-ups using our scheduling system, PTC Wizard. If none of the available days/times will work for your family, please let me know and we can make other arrangements. Likewise, if you are unable to access sign-ups online, please let me know and I will email you with whatever times remain open. As this is the first conference of the year, we will be focusing on goal-setting and looking over your child's most recent reading assessment. If you have not had a chance to fill out the yellow "Goal-Setting Questionnaire" that was sent home last Friday, please take a moment to fill it out before conferences. I would greatly appreciate it!



Field Day!

Field Day for second grade will be taking place on October 1st from 12:30-2:00 in the afternoon. The kids have been practicing many delightful track and field events in P.E. and are looking forward to putting their new skills into action! Please help to remind your child to wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes on October 1st. Also, please encourage your child to bring a water bottle and sunscreen since we will be outside for a large part of the afternoon. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting day on the new Douglass field!



Junior Achievement

Over the next 5 weeks, we will be participating in the Junior Achievement Program. The program partners elementary classrooms with a business volunteer from the Boulder community. We are fortunate to be partnered with Jessica Hoover this year! She will come into our classroom on Wednesdays and teach the students about economics using interactive activities and hands-on lessons. The overarching essential questions we will cover include...

How do citizens of our community participate in civic life (local government)?

How do people in our community participate in the economy?

It is an outstanding program, and really makes learning about economics fun!



On the Horizon

- Track and Field Day
October 1st 12:30-2:00
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 6th/ 8th/ 14th
- The Mayor of Lafayette Visits
Second Grade
October 16th



Personal Presentations...

Brett	10/2	11:50
Ewan	10/16	11:50
Sarah	10/23	11:50



Exciting News about Our Literacy Program...

Now that the “flooding model” is gone, many families are curious how the literacy program looks this year in individual classrooms. Here is a brief overview of the reading and writing program in your child’s classroom this year.

Reading

The backbone of our reading program this year is the Literacy Comprehension Toolkit. This program was adopted across grade levels and focuses on comprehension strategies children can use while reading. So far this year, we have worked on analyzing nonfiction text features (photos, captions, diagrams, etc.) and discussed the purposes behind an author including each feature in their book. We have also been practicing how readers make self-text and text-text connections while reading.

In addition to the work on comprehension strategies, we have begun to work in differentiated reading groups. The groups each have a book at their instructional level that they work on for a varied amount of time (anywhere from 1-2 weeks). Each group will work with me (the classroom teacher) on a regular basis as well as parent volunteers. We are very fortunate to have two parent volunteers who are also teachers by profession! Therefore, your child will be in a guided reading group 4 days a week and participate in a whole-group comprehension lesson 1 day per week.

Writing

Our classroom has “Writers Workshop” 5 days a week. During that time, we have a whole group mini-lesson (10-15 minutes) and then the children get to work on their own writing pieces for an additional 40 minutes. We are fortunate to have Tina Reilly assisting in our classroom 4 days each week! In addition to Para-professional assistance, we also have a parent volunteer on Wednesdays. We are currently working on personal narratives and the children have created wonderful stories that they are now editing.

Spelling

We have 30 minutes of spelling and skill block time each afternoon. The spelling program we base our instruction on is Rebecca Sitton’s Spelling and Word Skills. So far this year we have been reviewing short vowel sounds, practicing surprise words (words that are not spelled as they sound), and digraphs. Each child has an individualized list of words that we are working on. It is my goal that each child does not only memorize those words in isolation, but also transfers them into their writing correctly.

I hope that this overview answers some of your questions regarding how literacy looks this year. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to email sarah.bennett@bvsd.org or call 720.561.6624.