



SECOND GRADE



P.S 117

Briarwood, New York

Second Grade Curriculum
February 2011

Second Grade Curriculum Newsletter

Math

This month we will learn that subtraction of multi-digit numbers is based on basic subtraction facts, base-ten and place value concepts. Students will also count back by tens to subtract multiples of ten.

Science

Our scientist will learn that the interaction of forces causes motion of objects. That objects can be moved by forces such as pushes and pulls and that forces can be measured and changed.



Social Studies

During February we will begin to work on the different communities we could live in. We will begin with the Urban community and focus on New York City. We will learn the characteristics of a city and what makes New York City a great place to live.

Reader and Writer's Workshop

In February, our second graders will be engaging in *Series Reading Clubs*. Last month's unit of study, *character role playing*, has prepared our second graders for this work. By now, the children have learned strategies for understanding characters and plot, and for reading with fluency. When reading books in a series, children have the opportunity to practice these skills while learning more about prediction, characters and recognizing story patterns. The students find characters they love and relate to when they see them again and again in a series. Children will learn to make decisions about what they want to read and study, and how they will study those things together in reading clubs. This is a great opportunity to teach children to **think** about their characters in terms of characters' feelings and actions, and to ask themselves and/or their club members "why is a character acting in a particular way", and come up with their own ideas. This kind of questioning raises our children's thinking to a deeper level, which in turn brings students to more independence in their reading lives. As always, word work is ongoing.

February Writing for second grade focuses on *Writing Gripping Stories* with meaning and significance and *Writing Our Own Series Books*. The goal of this unit is to raise the quality of our students' narrative writing. Also, the goal is to increase the volume of our students' writing. The children will be writing "edge of seat" stories, true stories written with tension. The students will select series books as models. They will concentrate on "showing, not telling" in their writing. During partner time, the children will practice telling their stories and acting them out as they build tension. To increase the volume of writing, children will write in 5 page booklets. They will revisit previous written stories and ask themselves "how can I make it stronger"? The students will select a plan of action for their writing. This self-selected goal will foster independence in writing.