

# Mr. Garnai and Miss Kelly's Newsletter



## January 2017

Happy New Year! Mr. Garnai and I are glad to be back with our students in the classroom! We have missed them and are ready to move forward with the important work we have planned for them. This quarter is always a huge growth quarter for Second graders. We are excited to begin this quarter's journey with them!

### Reading Learning Targets

- ~I can identify and use text features to locate information in informational text.
- The text features we are studying and using are: caption, bold print, heading, glossary, index.
- ~I can explain what a diagram teaches in an informational text.
- ~I can use a glossary and beginning dictionary to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
- ~I can determine the answers to who, what, where, when why and how questions about informational text.
- ~I can write the contraction formed by two words using an apostrophe correctly.
- ~I can decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.
- ~I can apply grade level phonics to sound out words. Chunks we have studied: oa,ow

### Writing Learning Targets

- ~I can write an explanatory piece that has an introduction, provides a clear sequence of steps and and has a closing.

### Content Vocabulary:

Contraction: Two words put together to make a shorter word. An apostrophe takes the place of the missing letters.

Diagram- A labeled picture that helps show the parts of something.

Additional words: text features, apostrophe, explanatory text, research, introduction, conclusion.

### Language Arts Update

During the month of December each student was individually assessed in their reading. Our team of reading teachers used the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) to assess each student's independent text level. An independent text level refers to the level of text complexity that a student can read accurately (showing at least 96% accuracy), fluently

(approximately 70 words per minute) and with strong comprehension (using a retelling or written comprehension rubric).

The DRA reading test helps to identify not only a child's independent reading level, but also their strengths and weaknesses as a reader. I am focusing on your child's strengths and weakness identified in this test to move them forward as a reader. The information from your child's DRA assessment was communicated in a letter the week of January 3. If you have any questions about your child as a reader feel free to contact me.

How can you support your child's reading growth at home? Support your child's reading nightly. Listen to them read and sign their reading log. The single most beneficial way to become a better reader is to READ. Second grade readers are growing rapidly in their reading abilities, ask your child to retell what they read to you. This helps to improve their comprehension. We do this with each book in reading group. Beginning with level 28, the students will no longer retell a story, but instead will show their understanding through a written summary and answering questions from the text.

Also, encourage your child to read smoothly by grouping words together as they read. They should not sound choppy. They should be reading with expression, also. Focusing on one of these ideas at a time, will help your child improve in their reading development.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's reading development and next steps don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for all you do!

## Math Update

We are just finished ~~Chapter 5~~ Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 is titled

. We will be studying this chapter until the first week of February.

~~at Math~~ The students are continuing to take two assessments a week. The students are practicing ~~the~~ math facts everyday. We are also having two days a week.

The students will continue to have math homework on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. There is going to be a homework assignment on the same weekend of a week that has a snow day. The students are continuing to do an excellent job of completing their homework. Thank you for your help.

## Math Essential Question

What are some strategies for adding and subtraction 3-digit numbers?

## Math Learning Targets

I can use concrete models or drawings to show how to add and subtract within 1,000 by breaking up 3-digit numbers into the hundreds, tens and ones places.

## Math Vocabulary:

Regroup, Difference, Equation, Addends, Sum