



John Eaton Elementary
Washington, DC
Jacqueline Gartrell, Principal

October 7, 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

Second Grade Classroom Newsletter "Riding the Wave of Friendship"

Mrs. Biglow and Mrs. Natarajan

Hello Parents and Friends!

Welcome to October. Along with the coming of the new season, school has kicked into high gear as we buckle down and really start to work. We hope you enjoy perusing our newsletter. Be sure to check the back page for upcoming events, dates to remember, and reminders. Thank you for your interest!

October

The month of October will see the debut of the second grade flexible ability groupings in math. Our science unit is well underway. We are slowly introducing the students to the writing process, so they will have books published in no time at all!

Math

We continue to work with the Everyday (Chicago) Math curriculum for second grade. Now that we have completed our explorations of our manipulatives, we are using hundred squares, coins, calendars, and number lines to further the students' understanding of number patterns, counting, and putting numbers in sequential or non-sequential order. Please work with your child at home; discussing the day's math lesson, reaffirming skills, and testing their knowledge are very important parts of the learning process. The students will be split into their first flexible groups this week, to be reassessed and regrouped at regular intervals throughout the coming months.



October Birthdays

October 6	Maxim	October 12	Henry
October 10	Pearl	October 31	Stone

****PARENTS****

Birthday celebrations are for **ALL** friends. We have a total of 50. If you plan to celebrate at school, we suggest that you bring in low-cost, **NON-FOOD** items. (ex. pencils, stickers, recess equipment, board games for the class, etc.)

Reading Tip of the Month

Create a book together. Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations. Also, does your child have a student dictionary/thesaurus? If not, this will be a wonderful add to his or her library.

October-Contd'

Reading and Writing

Once we have finished *Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* and discussed it in class, we will be starting with our new required reading book, *Bunnicula*. There is still another homework project associated with *Amber Brown* and *Bunnicula* will be studied mostly in class. However, there will be homework assignments for *Bunnicula*. For both books, we are focusing on the whole language approach, character traits, and the story structure. If you have not paid for your child's books, please do so!! Also, keep your eyes and ears opened for an invitation to our George Washington's Breakfast program - I hear some Presidents might drop by...

Social Studies

The month of October is Hispanic Heritage Month. In honor of this, we are featuring books that highlight individuals of Hispanic Heritage during class read-a-louds and for students to peruse from their classroom libraries. If any parents or friends would like to prepare a presentation for the benefit of John Eaton or the second grade highlighting the experience of individuals of Hispanic Heritage, please contact your child's teacher. We urge you to share your cultural capital with our community.

Science

Our tree unit continues as our students work on noticing and recording the sunrise and sunset times and the state of the leaves on the trees. As summer has now turned to fall, what differences can you see in our surrounding environment? The children will continue to explore and learn more about their adopted trees during walks to the park. Each class will also start putting together a leaf and tree observation table. Have a tree with interesting bark or leaves in your yard? Send the leaves or bark to school with your child so it can be shared with the class.

Upcoming Events/Proposed Field Trips

Field Trips

Tudor Place Historic House

9am-12noon

October 19 (Natarajan) - need to carpool

October 20 (Biglow) - need to carpool

George Washington Home, Mt. Vernon

October 27

George Washington Breakfast Program

TBD

Proposed Field Trips:

Sunrise Nursing Home (Dec-need to carpool)

National Building Museum (11/17)

Kennedy Center

Kudos & Reminders to Parents

- Kudos to all our Parents who chaperoned our first Nature walk to the park at Courtland place.
- If you need to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, please don't hesitate.

