



SUPER SECOND GRADE



Hayfield Elementary
Fairfax County

December 2011
Volume 1, Issue 4

Second Grade Monthly Times

Classroom Learning...

The months just seem to go by as if in a hurry. As the end of 2011 approaches, we can see the transformation in our second graders. It is wonderful to observe them grow into more confident, thoughtful and creative learners.

Currently in math, we are working on addition and subtraction strategies that will lead our young mathematicians to understand the relationship between subtraction and addition.

In social studies we are concluding our unit on Native Americans and are about to begin our study of Mexico. The students will explore Mexico as a contemporary society. They will learn to locate Mexico on a map, study its geographic features, and describe its natural, human, and capital resources. Students will also be able to compare and contrast their life with that of a Mexican child. We will culminate the study of our neighbor to the south with a great Fiesta Day. Please be sure to check your child's Thursday Folder for more information regarding the fiesta and volunteer opportunities for this very educational and fun-filled event.

During our reading workshop students will continue making connections, asking questions and practicing all those decoding strategies "good readers" use. Nevertheless, our big focus for this month will be visualizing. Our second graders will work on paying close attention to the descriptive language authors use to describe events, characters and settings. Students will use those words along with their background knowledge to create mental images that will help them further understand the text. At home you can encourage your child to visualize by having them read a selection from a book and draw what they think is happening or what the setting or character might look like.

Our Writing Workshop continues to fine tune our great writers' abilities to become more descriptive by adding details to their narratives.

When walking down the hallway, please take a minute to read some of the narratives written by our fine second grade authors. We are sure you will not only be impressed, but very entertained by the wonderful stories they have to share.

Key Vocabulary

Social Studies:

adobe	pesos	cactus
beaches	mountains	plateau
rainforest	peninsula	volcano
natural resource	human resources	
capital resources	barter	trade
exchange	consumer	producer
goods	services	

Key Places:

Rio Grande	North America	United States
Pacific Ocean	Gulf of Mexico	Mexico City
Sonoran Desert	Yucatan Peninsula	Mexico

Upcoming Events

December 16	Mexican Fiesta
December 23-Jan 2	Winter Holiday

Mrs. Almeida, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. DeSatnick, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Luther, Mrs. Purcell