# 

8.30.19

### Notes from Mrs. Elman

Dear Parents.

Students got a chance to show what they know about math and reading this week when they took their first second grade MAP tests. This was a big change for second graders because they had to read and do the test on their own, unlike the K-1 test which was read to them. I am really proud of how hard they worked! I am excited to work together as a team to help each student grow. Remember, there is no school on Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday.

Have a nice long weekend!

Sincerely, Mrs. Elman

## The Week in Review

#### **English Language Arts (E.L.A.)**

Students continued to read and write about the text, *Trouble at the Sandbox*. We focused on the setting of the story. The setting is where and when the story takes place. This is a great thing to focus on when reading with your child. Have your child tell you where and when the story takes place with as many details from the text as possible. During reading, we also take a close look at the vocabulary words. We pronounce them, define them, use them in a sentence, and even act them out!

Our reading skill focus has continued to be working with short vowel sounds. We have also practiced reading sight words.

Our grammar focus has been nouns and sharing that a noun is a person, place or thing. Students brainstormed nouns, sorted nouns and learned a movement activity to help them remember noun categories.

#### **MATH**

After creating and sorting beetle glyphs last week, this week we used our graphed data about our beetles in the form of picture graphs and bar graphs. Students learned the following math terms: greater than, less than, equal, compare, difference, total and sum. We used these terms to make observations of our bar graph that compared two groups of beetles.

We also began getting to know the <u>number rack</u> as an important math tool to model numbers. We played a game called Show Me in which they were challenged to show numbers from 0 to

10 in multiple ways. Your child can show you how we used the number rack to make numbers at the website linked above.

#### **All About Me Bags**

Thank you for helping your child find items for their "Me Bags!" We found out so much about each other from this activity! We are building a classroom community of respectful learners by learning how to actively listen and ask questions about what a speaker presents.

#### 5 Tools

Students have learned that every day they bring five very important tools to school with them. We begin each day by using actions that say, "Today I agree to control my body, voice, imagination, concentration and cooperation." We are practicing being strong enough to bring these 5 tools each day so that everyone can grow and learn! Have your child show you the actions! You can help reinforce this at home by using similar language and praising when your child is being strong.

#### **Garden Visit**

As first graders, your child took time in May and June to plant seeds in our school garden. The plants have grown over the summer and this week, as second graders, we observed changes in the garden. Your child may have helped harvest potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers or cucamelons.

## Learning in Action!







Gorden Visit

"Look! A pumpkin!"

Reading Rules!

"I found evidence in the text!"

All About Me

"I want to be an archaeologist in the future."



Mrs. Elman

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