

## SECOND GRADE SENTINEL

### Hands-on Learning at Its Best!



Thinking like a scientist!

The second quarter was filled with activities, and the second-graders have been very busy! At the beginning of the quarter, they took a fun field trip to The Griffin Academy to spend a special morning with the preschoolers. The students had the chance to practice and show off their reading skills as they were teamed up with preschool students. The second-graders felt like the “big” kids, and the preschoolers were thrilled to receive a special bookmark from their new second-grade buddies. Everyone had a great time learning and playing with new friends.

To further their reading skills, the second-graders are working hard in English class. They have mastered all verb tenses: past, present, and future. Second-graders have also been learning about the different parts of a paragraph. From writing topic sentences, providing supporting details, concluding sentences, and even indenting—they know how to do it all! Once the novel, *Caleb's Story*, was completed, the students moved right into *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. The students have thoroughly enjoyed reading about all of Mr. Popper's silly antics. In the upcoming months, the students are looking forward to learning how to make their paragraphs really “pop” with the use of adverbs, adjectives, and different types of punctuation. These skills will really come in handy when they begin to study poetry more closely.

The second-grade students had the chance to learn about the voting process as they wrapped up their study of elections in history class. Class work and activities helped to instill in them the importance of voting, and they also got the chance to vote for their very own school mascot! The students quickly turned their focus to learning all about the Native Americans. As such an important part of early U.S. history, this is the largest topic covered in the second-grade history curriculum, and the second-graders had the chance to gain a much more informed appreciation for Native American culture. All of their studies culminated in an exciting event in January—Native American Day! On this special day, students got the opportunity to dress up as Native Americans and complete crafts and projects related to their studies. Fun was had by all as the students created masks, necklaces, and sand paintings, and participated in Native American races! A huge thank-you goes to all the second-grade parents who helped to make this event a joyous and memorable one for the children. Having completed their study of the Native Americans, the students are excited to be learning about another fascinating group—the Vikings!

Ever since mastering basic addition and subtraction facts, second-grade math enthusiasts have been looking forward to learning multiplication. The second quarter marks the beginning of their much-anticipated discovery of multiplication and division. Second-graders have enjoyed learning how these new mathematical operations offer simplified means of solving complex math problems. Through hands-on activities, experiences with manipulatives, interactive games, problem-solving opportunities, and daily “Multiplication Challenges,” second-graders quickly rose to the challenge and have been quite impressive in their ability to integrate yet another set of math concepts and “basic facts” into their daily lives. In addition to learning the wonders of multiplication and division, second-graders celebrated the school's annual math curricular weeks by learning about and creating individual line graphs and mathematical analyses related to their findings on the weight change of apples over time. In the third quarter, students have begun to expand upon this introduction to graphing and measurement with a study of fractions and decimals.



Second-graders are always engaged in Miss Sapper's lessons.

Having concluded their study of geography by demonstrating impressive map skills and learning all fifty states and capitals, second-graders began the second quarter ready to get their hands wet with science. The study of Earth science afforded students many opportunities to engage in hands-on lab activities. Students learned how to “think like a scientist,” by asking questions, gathering information, making hypotheses, conducting experiments, observing and recording results, and sharing those results. From creating their very own model of the water cycle to analyzing which type of soil retains the most water, second-graders enjoyed learning about many of the Earth's fascinating features. In the third quarter, students will begin their study of physical science with a look at matter and its properties.

The second-graders always look forward to French class where they become immersed in the French culture. From the study of Paris and its glorious landmarks and monuments to singing songs in French, the students are becoming more confident in their French-speaking abilities. It's not unusual to see every hand in the air when you pass a French class as the students are always eager to show off their skills!

***“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.” ~ Angela Schwindt***