

SECOND GRADE SENTINEL

Sailing into the School Year

Second grade jumped right into the school year with great excitement and desire to learn. In English class, the students started off with some sophisticated grammar lessons which taught them about all of the different types of nouns and how to make them singular, plural, and even possessive! Students will continue to work on developing their writing and grammar skills, while continuing to review their phonics skills. The second-graders have already finished their first independent chapter book, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, and have begun the next book in the series, *Caleb's Story*. The students' favorite time every week in language lab is reading a new story from their reading book and putting their imaginations to work.

In history, the students have been learning all about America and the proud patriots! To kick off the presidential election race, they have been learning election-related vocabulary, what it means to vote, the responsibilities of the President of the United States, and about the three branches of government. Up next, the students will study one of the most popular topics in history, the pilgrims and the Native Americans!

After a long and relaxing summer away from school, second-graders began the new school year reviewing important math concepts, such as number sense, counting up to 100,000, and adding and subtracting 2-, 3-, and 4-digit numbers! On October 5, the second-grade visited Homestead Farm in Poolesville, Maryland, to learn about and pick apples. Throughout the day, the second-grade students petted, fed, and learned about different farm animals, enjoyed a scenic hay ride, listened to an informative talk about apples and apple orchards, and had the opportunity to pick their own apples.

In the weeks following the trip, the students engaged in a variety of apple-related math activities and science experiments. The week-long "apple lab" included cutting and observing the parts of an apple, weighing and measuring the apples using different measurement tools, and exploring what happens to a peeled versus an unpeeled apple over time. Second grade would like to thank Homestead Farm for providing the opportunity to learn about apples and their many uses!

The first quarter of science in second grade was devoted to the study of geography. Second-graders practiced their map skills with the use of maps, globes, and various other geographic tools. In addition, second-graders worked hard (region by region) to learn all fifty U.S. states and their capitals! In preparation for their states and capitals quizzes, students practiced important study skills, such as making their own flashcards and exploring active learning strategies through call-and-response games such as "I Have, Who Has?"

The second-grade students are off to a great start, and the second quarter looks bright and promising as the first!



Second-graders use hands-on activities to help math come to life.



Interactive bulletin boards and classroom displays capture students' attention.

"The world is as many times new as there are children in our lives."

~ Robert Brault