

NEWS FROM ROOMS 2 & 11

FEBRUARY 17, 2012

<http://www.jbindus.com>

CLASSROOM NOTES

Below, you'll find a brief description of what students studied last week. Please ask your child for detailed information!



Literacy Block

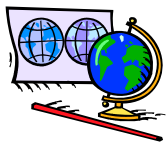
(two week cycles)

- Story: Night Letters & small guided groups
- Skills: drawing conclusions
- Grammar: subject-verb agreement
- Writing: how-to & pen-pal letters

Math



Concepts: multiplication, division and story problems



Social Studies

Big Idea: judicial branch of local government

Science



Big Idea: exploring animal life cycles

Have a great week!

Thanks for your continued support!

Tidbits...



We've started a new section of our newsletter – the "Tip of the Week" section. This will include reminders or other such helpful bits of advice to help you navigate through third grade with your child! Please check it out below!

Check out the back of this newsletter for more information concerning our small groups in both reading and math.

TIP of the Week!

Graded papers come home at the end of each week. Please note that only common assessments to the grade level are "scored". Most other activities are used as whole-group learning tools and are usually "stamped" or "stickered" and sent home. Students complete these activities on their own, but then we go over and discuss them as a group.

Coming Events

- 2-17 – No School!
- 2-20 – No School!
- 2-28 – Conferences
- 3-8 – Conferences

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Math/Reading Group Information

In Rooms 2 & 11, we have moved to a guided small group approach to teaching math and reading. We believe that this is best practice for teaching students, and enjoy the time it gives us with small groups of students. Please read below to learn more about our small groups!

GUIDED MATH

We are in the mist of re-structuring our Math time! Ms. Sabatino would love a chance to meet with small groups of students at one time while providing the rest of the students a chance to work on individualized activities. While this is occurring, students will rotate through a variety of stations including:

Math Table-a time to meet with Ms. Sabatino focusing on a specific skill.

Independent Work-reinforcement of the skill of the day.

Computers-time to go onto websites that have specific learning paths structured for each student. (i.e. First in Math, Compass Learning and Dream Box)

Fluency-structured fact fluency practice for students to work on at their specific level to increase their speed.

Joker-a station designated to solve story problems or to review past skills either remediating or enriching.

Games-a time to work through the games integrated into our Investigations materials typically used to reinforce or solidify our skill of the day.

Over the course of 2 days, we will typically meet as a whole class and rotate through all 6 stations once. Typically, stations are more hands-on activities rather than paper-pencil tasks. However, there will be at least one activity that will be used to monitor student progress each week. Have fun talking to your child about the changes! Please feel free to contact Ms. Sabatino should you have any questions or concerns. :)

GUIDED READING

Students have been meeting in our new guided reading groups for a few weeks now. I'm happy to report that all is running smoothly and students have really adjusted well to our slight change in schedule. We are now meeting for about 90 minutes daily for the reading block. Meeting with small groups encompasses most of that time allowing for small chunks of whole-group instruction as needed. When not meeting in their small groups, students work through a variety of centers, including:

Book Table – Students meet with Mrs. Bindus to read books at their instructional levels.

Group Time – Right after leaving the book table, students go to work on an independent assignment that directly relates to what was read in small group time or reinforces some other demonstrated need of the group (usually skill related).

Word Study – Students work with their word study words to reinforce the pattern of the week.

Center Choice – During this time, students can choose from a variety of activities including such centers as Dictionary, Thesaurus, ABC, Literacy Folders, and Poetry Response.

Silent Reading – During this rotation, students participate in **leveled** silent reading. This is different from our “free-choice” silent reading in that students may only read/respond to silent books that are on or below their independent levels.

As students progress through the centers, they “check off” completed activities as they finish. Please be aware that not all centers may be completed due to a variety of reasons, and this is OK. By looking at the center packet, you'll be able to tell how your child performed for the week. I'll be marking either a +, ✓ or – depending on your child's performance. Please ask your child how the groups are going, and please feel free to call Mrs. Bindus with any questions!