**Second Grade News**

**From the classes of Mrs. Bautch and Mrs. Slade**

**11-12-15**

Math

 This week, the children began adding three and four two-digit numbers. Using skills and strategies already learned, they determined the most efficient way to solve specific problems. They looked for combinations of numbers that were easier to solve (i.e. making a ten or a double fact). The second graders also spent a great deal of time solving story problems. They continue to use the four-step plan of **understanding**, **planning**, **solving**, and **checking** to work through these types of problems. Finally, we are making the connection of related basic facts to double-digit fact families. An example of a fact family would be:

24+15=39 15+24=39 39-24=15 39-15=24

# Language Arts

The second graders have been reading realistic fiction focusing on the essential question “How do animals survive?” Realistic fiction texts are made-up but have characters and events that could be real. The students’ word work has included investigating the patterns of words with the short o vowel sound as in hot and the long o vowel sound as in poke. They are also using prefixes to understand word meanings and are comparing and contrasting texts.

 Our focus writing trait this week has been “Ideas.” The children are working to focus their writing on a manageable topic. They are adding details to create a more vivid picture for the reader and are rereading their work to ensure their writing makes sense.



Literature

 This week, we enjoyed stories that involve writing. The children heard wonderful books aimed at inspiring them to become writers themselves. They also were fun stories to spark greater reading interest in the children.

Artist in Residence

For three days this week, second grade hosted Stephen Peters, our artist in residence. Stephen Peters is a writer/storyteller who works with the children to develop their own writing abilities. He discusses character development and the use of sensory detail, dramatic structure, and dialogue in the writing process. We enjoy working with him each year. The story your child will create will become a book to display at our Authors’ Tea in May.

Veteran’s Day

We applaud the courage and patriotism of all the men and women who serve or have served in the United States armed services. On Wednesday, we attended an all school Veterans Day assembly. We participated by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing patriotic songs. This program was a valuable way to learn about this important day in the United States. Family members or friends who have served our country were welcomed as guests. We appreciate their service to our country.

# Social Studies

The children have been comparing and contrasting the concepts of rules and laws. We have been discussing the importance of following both rules and laws. The students have also been learning about the voting process. Tomorrow, we will vote for our class celebration for earning “Caught Being Good” postcards.