

# October News



I would like to tell you about all that we have been working on so far this year.



Garden Fun! Last spring we had planted flower, herb and vegetable seeds in our class garden. We measured our cucumber crop; the largest was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pound and 13 inch long. We had a small crop of carrots as well.

**Math** We have almost completed Investigation One on Whole Number Operations. Students continued to develop strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We emphasized the visualizing, retelling and modeling the actions of the addition and subtraction situations. Students are focusing on solving problems in ways that make sense to them and are able to explain their work so someone else can see how they solved it.

**Reading:** A very important part of our day is guided reading and centers. Students read books at their own reading level in small groups. Students are also working on literacy centers independently. The activities are differentiated to meet all learning styles.

The stories from our new reading series are shared in whole group instruction. The First Theme is on the importance of friendship. We read many read alouds and big books each week. We not only work on strategies from summarizing, cause and effect and real vs. fantasy. We are making connections with the characters in the various books and analyzing the problems they are having and connecting to our own lives the important messages about friendships.

**Social Studies:** We are concluding our Unit on Beginning Map Skills. We have learned the parts of a map: title, map key, symbols, scale, compass rose. We will continue working on reading and using a map to follow directions, north, south, east and west. We will begin looking at world maps to learn the seven continents and label the oceans.

**Science:** Our first unit is called *Science in the Kitchen*. Our focus will be about the properties of matter and the three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. We will be making an ice castle, as we learn about the water cycle. A letter will be sent home at that time.

**Goals:** In second grade we are working on being *Super Improvers*. There are ten levels to achieve: beginner, learner, leader, rising star, specialist, scholar, pro, legend, expert, and master. Students pick their personal goal that they are going to work on for that level. When they show they are successfully working on their goal they will receive a stamp. When 10 stamps are earned they will receive a certificate and move up to the next level. Hopefully, students will continue working on old goals as well as the new goal. I know they are excited to share their certificate with you, so please ask them about their goals!

**Homework Reminder:** Thank you so much for encouraging your child to have a special homework routine. I appreciate your help in checking homework and ensuring reading is done every night, and signing the planner.

**School Events:**     October

3<sup>rd</sup> After School Clubs begin

8<sup>th</sup> No School - Columbus Day

9<sup>th</sup> Hot Lunch

19<sup>th</sup> Picture Retakes

23<sup>rd</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Southwest Symphony performance of  
at Trinity College

31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Parade at 9:00a.m. - weather permitting

Early dismissal at 11:15

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at [MLambert@ahsd125.org](mailto:MLambert@ahsd125.org)

Or 708-423-3078. Please check out our website for a copy of newsletter, spelling list or other classroom information.