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# Welcome Back!

We have now been back in school for about a month and we are happy to report that the students of 2GH have cleared out those “summer cobwebs” and are focused and excited for a new year of exploration. During the first week of school, we met as a class and established rules for our community so that we could have an optimal environment for learning. We wrote a “Class Constitution” and all signed our names. Our main goals are to create an environment of kindness and respect for our classmates and teachers and we are continuing to work on those goals each day.

**Curriculum Connections**

Math: In math this month the students will continue working on place value and number concepts. Our focus is on developing strong number sense skills so that the students are able to work with and manipulate numbers more easily. In addition, the students will continue to be tested on their ability to quickly and accurately recall basic facts. If your child does not know his or her addition and subtraction facts by heart, please spend a few minutes per night studying with them.

Reading: We are in full swing with our Readers’ Workshop program. Each day we have a mini lesson and then the students find a cozy book nook around the room where they can read independently. While reading, they practice the reading strategies that we are learning. This month, our lessons are focused around characters—their external and internal traits, how characters are feeling, and keeping track of how those feelings might change throughout a book. You can reinforce what we are doing in school by having your child read his or her “just right book,” recording their minutes read on the log each night, and asking them about their reading.

Writing: The students are thoroughly enjoying our Writers’ Workshop model for teaching writing. They cheer when it is writing time and let out a chorus of groans when we announce that writing time is over. They love being “the star of their stories,” but are sometimes challenged to find small moments in their lives to write about. For inspiration, they have been referring to their heart maps. If you have any fun family adventures on the weekends, be sure to remind your children to write about them in Writers’ Workshop.

Social Studies: This month in social studies, the class is studying communities and how people live, work, play, and learn in them. In conjunction with this unit, we will be planning a field trip around the community to visit places like the library, police station, and mayor’s office. It should be an enjoyable experience for all of us.

# Important Dates

October 8: Columbus Day (12:30 Dismissal)

October 11: PTA Pumpkin Sale (remember to bring a bag and $7 for your pumpkin)

October 11: Basic Skills Back to School Night

October 12: Progress Reports distributed

October 12: Harvest Festival (3:00 pm)

October 22-26: Book Fair (Family Night 10/24 6:00-8:00)

October 31: Halloween Parade and Party

November 2: Spirit Day/Silly Hair Day

We enjoyed having the opportunity to meet many of you at Back to School Night. Thank you so much to those of you who took “Apples for the Teachers” and sent in supplies for our class. We look forward to a great year of working together.

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Greenberg

 Mrs. Holmes

Please detach this portion and sign so that we know you received this newsletter! Thanks!

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_