



2nd Grade May-June Newsletter
Mrs. Duesterhaus and Mrs. Campshure

Hello 2nd grade parents,

Here is the last newsletter of the school year. Thank you so much for all of the considerations and support that you have extended to the both of us throughout the school year. As we move closer to the end of the school year, please remind your child to stay focused and do their best every day.

Reading Mastery 2 - We are finishing our Reading Mastery 3 Book C within a couple of weeks and then we will begin reading *Stuart Little* by E.B. White. We will also be previewing Reading Mastery 4 Book A so the children will be better prepared for the transition to the next reading level. Many students enjoy reading Junie B. Jones and Magic Tree House books and these would be great independent reading books for the summer.

Reading Mastery 3 -The students will start reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and completing written work for each chapter. In class we talk each day about how to make sentence answers better. I encourage the children to include details in their written answers that come from the question as well as the book. I'm also encouraging them to include as many details as possible. These skills get better each lesson. We will conclude the year reading a few chapters of *Pippi Longstocking*.

Spelling Mastery B - We continue to plug along with the difficult words and spelling rules taught at the end of this book. I continue to review words with any extra time we have each day. We will finish the level by the end of the school year. A review of these words will begin the next level of the spelling program in the fall.

Saxon Math 2 - Several children are having difficulty with the new skills we are learning. This is due to the fact that Saxon introduces many difficult skills in the last 6 weeks of the program and doesn't build in the extra time to practice. If your child is having difficulty please look over homework and give them extra practice with the concept by

making up a few of the same type problems for home practice. Many children still aren't firm with facts and are still using fingers to count. Please help your child to memorize the facts by practicing more. Many of you may consider enrolling your child in the math reinforcement class which is offered during summer school or purchasing the school math packet for summer retention.

Saxon Math Level 3 - Learn the Fateful Fourteen Facts: 3×8 , 4×8 , 5×8 , 6×8 , 7×8 , 8×8 , 3×7 , 4×7 , 5×7 , 6×7 , 7×7 , 3×6 , 4×6 , 6×6 . I would suggest making or buying flashcards and learning two facts super-fast. Then add another card and learn three of the cards super-fast. Keep adding 1 card until all of these facts become automatic. There are a few students still struggling with some of the concepts taught at this level. If your child is struggling, you may want to enroll them in the Math program we are running during Summer School at Classical. We always suggest parents look for ways to keep math skills sharp over the summer. There are many natural ways to enrich skills and have fun as well!

Core Knowledge Literature News - This month we will read the Tongue-cut sparrow which is a tale from Japan. If time allows we will read other tales from Japan.



Core Knowledge History and Geography - Once we leave the land of Ancient Greece we will learn about modern Japan this month. The students will immerse themselves in the "land of the rising sun." They will learn about the 4 major islands, Mt. Fuji and Tokyo. We will study some of the traditional crafts and costumes and finally learn about some of the holidays that

Japanese people celebrate. We will also review South America which includes Brazil, Amazon River, Peru, Chile, Andes Mountains, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina.



Science - This month's focus is on Magnetism. The children will be working hard all month on a packet of experiments designed to focus attention on forces they cannot see that act upon objects. They will also learn about lodestones, magnetic poles, magnetic field and laws of magnetic attraction. The month will end with a bit of orienteering and use of a compass.

