A Look at Learning in Grade 2

Literacy Program

READING

Read Aloud: We read fiction and non-fiction. We vary genre, author, format and style. Most importantly we read quality children's literature that the children can connect with and use to practice comprehension strategies.

Shared Reading: We read songs, poems and student writing together. We do choral reading of a variety of texts that are simple and fun to read. Every morning starts with a Morning Message that is read by the whole class in a large group.

Guided Reading: The teacher works with small groups of readers with similar reading skills to teach and reinforce important teaching points before, during and after the reading of a book.

Independent Reading: Children read on their own or with a partner at their appropriate reading level. This is done daily in class and is the single most important thing that you can do to support your child's literacy development.

WRITING

Modeled Writing: The teacher shows his or her own writing using a think-aloud process to help students develop their own writing skills.

Shared Writing: The teacher and students compose messages, stories, charts, poems, letters, etc. together.

Guided Writing: The teacher helps students write a variety of texts. The teacher guides the process and uses writing conferences to do this.

Independent Writing: Children write their own stories, letters, literature responses and poetry.

Word Study: Children develop knowledge of words and the patterns in those words through the use of lessons, charts and word walls.

Six Traits Writing Curriculum:

Second Grade students are taught to incorporate the Six Traits of Writing in the writing process. That writing methodology is based on the premise that students become better writers and

revisers when the Six Traits are used. The traits include: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions.

Personal Writing: Stories, friendly notes and letters, and journal writing.
Subject Writing: Writing About Books (book reviews), math problems, writing in the content areas (Math, Social Studies and Science) and making posters.
Non-Fiction Writing: All-about books.
Story Writing: Personal Narrative and "Small Moment" stories.
Poetry Writing: Writing short poems, shape poems, acrostic and rhyming poems.

Lucy Calkins Units of Study

We have adopted the writing program developed by Lucy Calkins, founder of the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project. The units teach a variety of skills and strategies that are necessary to become a proficient writer as well as teach a variety of genre.

Reading At Home:

We encourage parents to read to their children every day. Research shows that when parents regularly read to their children, they read earlier and become more proficient readers. We also ask that as part of a reading program, you listen to your child read for some minutes each day and discuss the story with him or her. I would recommend that you read with your child for at least twenty minutes every day.

MATH:

Everyday Mathematics – Everyday Mathematics emphasizes the application of mathematics to real world situations. In addition, it provides opportunities for basic skills practice and review. The students are encouraged to explain and discuss their thinking. The Everyday Math program is being re-implemented as the core resource so that it is aligned with the AERO (American Education Reaches Out) standards and NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) focal points.

Science: The themes that we will cover in science this year are: Silkworms (life cycles and other insects' life cycles), Balance and Motion, as well as Pebbles, Sand and Silt.

Social Studies: We follow the Social Studies Alive! Program which focuses on communities, geography, and economics. In addition to our social studies curriculum, we have adopted the Responsive Classroom program to establish school and classroom routines as well as build community in the classroom. Some of the components that you may hear your child talk about are: morning meeting, closing circle and hopes and dreams.

Handwriting: In second grade the students learn D'Nealian handwriting and we'll introduce the students to cursive when they are able to print neatly and confidently.

Specialists: Our students get additional instruction in art, music, physical education, technology, library, and Nepal Studies. Lincoln School provides support from the ESOL and resource department as needed.