

## Teacher's Message/Announcements

Hello stupendous second grade families!

What a fabulous week we've had! Your kiddos have done such marvelous things already, and the best part is, the year is just beginning!

On our first day, our lost stuffy, Percy the Penguin, led the children on a scavenger hunt around the school, allowing them to learn good hallway, lunchroom, and playground behavior while touring the school. He's a tricky one, that penguin! But, boy, was it fun! Your little darlings also participated in several classroom and grade level community building activities! Ask your child about Eye Tag, Spot It, the Puzzle Challenge, and our Morning Meetings. Please see our newsletter below for greater detail about things learned and things yet to come!

To get a more complete picture of each of our amazing students, we will begin assessing all of our students on fluency, spelling, reading, and math. This upcoming Thursday and Friday morning, students will be taking the first of our new [NWEA MAP growth assessment tests](#). We will prepare your cuties by taking some practice tests (also online) and teaching good test taking strategies. Please make sure your child eats a good breakfast and enjoys a restful night's sleep!

Looking forward to a great year!

God bless,  
Mrs. Pearring & Mrs. Robinson

### Announcements

- To keep both teachers in the loop of absences, issues, or concerns, we ask that you copy both teachers on emails.
- Children will bring home their student agenda each night. Please sign and return each day.
- 9/1 - Beginning of Year NWEA MAP Testing (Math)
- 9/2 - Beginning of Year NWEA MAP Testing (Reading)
- 9/2 - Blue and Gold Day
- 9/5 - Labor Day
- 9/9 - Tour the World With Felix Event (details and timing forthcoming...volunteers will be requested!)

This week, 2nd grade began calendar math, reviewing concepts such as counting with tens frames, using tally marks for data collection, comparing numbers, and more!

Next week, we will dive into our Measurement unit, learning all about how to measure the length of objects and the distances between two objects. Students will measure with both standard (rulers, yard sticks) and non-standard (shoes, hands, classroom objects) tools, and will be afforded ample opportunities to estimate measurements, as well. These lessons will be the precursor to the Measurement Olympics!

### **Literacy**

What amazing readers we have! All of your kiddos were so excited to read clues about our “missing stuffy” on day one! They’ve also adored the read alouds we’ve selected. Throughout the week, students successfully practiced building their reading stamina with the introduction of “Read to Self,” a key component of The Daily 5.

Next week, as stamina continues to grow, we will take some time to assess student fluency and spelling.

### **Science / Social Studies**

In Social Studies, our super second graders explored the responsibilities of a good citizen by participating in elections, drafting a classroom constitution, and designing a flag representative of our new classroom names: The Rainbow Cheetahs (Pearing) and The Silly Sloths (Robinson). In keeping with the themes of responsibility and identity, the Rainbow Cheetahs and Silly Sloths brainstormed the qualities that are inherent in good teachers and students, using the following sentence stems:

- A good teacher/student is...
- A good teacher/student isn't...
- A good teacher/student does...
- A good teacher/student doesn't...

Next week, we'll kick off a geography unit and scour the globe for a lost bunny named Felix. Along the way, we'll learn key vocabulary (Prime Meridian, Equator, hemisphere, legend, compass rose), identify the 5 oceans and 7 continents, construct simple maps, locate major rivers (James River, Mississippi River, Rio Grande River, Huang He River, Nile River) and mountain ranges (Appalachian and Rocky Mountains), and “visit” some wonderful international locations (England, France, Italy, Kenya, USA (New York), India, China, and Mexico). We'll be looking for some volunteers for this unit...details forthcoming!

### **Religion**

This week, The Rainbow Cheetahs and Silly Sloths got to spend some quality time with Jesus in the chapel, both for some beautiful, peaceful prayer time AND to prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for our first school Mass next week! The children have loved praying together and feel so refreshed after spending time with our Lord.

Next week, we will explore what we know about God, learn about Saints and get introduced to our special 2nd grade patron Saint for the year!