



THE PARK  
SCHOOL

Dear Families Entering Grade 3,

We believe summer reading and math helps children practice the skills they learned during the previous year and prepares them for the school year ahead. While we hope your children spend time reading and doing math this summer, we will meet each student where they are academically in the fall, and begin an exciting learning journey together.

Here are some resources you can use this summer:

- Your child's Distance Learning Materials from this spring on the Lower Division Planner
- [Reading Log](#)
- [Math Calendar](#)
- [Resource List](#)
- [Summer Reading Challenge](#)
- [Park Reads](#)
- [Library's webpage](#)
- Library Card
  - *graduation-year+lastname+first initial* (example: 26LaneT)
  - Please contact [Tory Lane](#), Library Department Head, if you need help accessing this great resource!

We look forward to celebrating the work that your children complete over the summer. Hearing about the books they read, the math problems they solved, and the unique experiences your family shared will be the starting place for many conversations as your child's teacher builds a classroom community of learners. There is no expectation that you bring materials back to school.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer,

Kimberly Formisano, *Lower Division Head*

Tina Fox, *Lower Division Assistant Head*

## Distance Learning in Grade 2

During Distance Learning second graders have worked hard to practice their existing skills and learn new content through synchronous lessons, individual meetings, and asynchronous work. In Word Work, students practiced identifying and spelling words with the six different syllable types, learned the spelling option procedure for the long *a*, long *e*, and */oi/* sounds, and reviewed homophones. In Reading, students learned to recognize common features in poetry such as rhythm, rhyme, and repetition, as well as figurative language such as personification, similes, and metaphors. Students also learned to make inferences to unlock hidden messages and understand poems more deeply. Finally, students learned to recognize basic story elements within fairy tales, while practicing reading skills such as inferring and determining importance. In Writing, students practiced using their poet's eyes to write poems that included poetic features such as line breaks, comparative language, and repetition; they also experimented with different forms of poetry such as haikus, shape poems, and conversation poems. Students practiced writing the beginnings, middles and ends to fairy tales, learning to add important story aspects including character description, setting, problem, solution, and dialogue. In Math, students learned how to measure accurately and compare measurements using standard and non-standard units. They also solved multi-step story problems with two-digit numbers, and explained their use of particular strategies such as subtracting in parts, adding up, and subtracting back. Finally, students practiced using place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers. In Social Studies, students learned how to locate Colombia and South Africa on a map and utilized cardinal directions to identify where landforms exist. Students explored key cultural elements in both Colombia and South Africa, including shelter and food, through non-fiction research and design projects. Social emotional learning took on a new meaning during this time of distance learning. Students practiced adapting to a new (virtual) environment, articulated their feelings and struggles, and worked towards flexibility and independence. We're so proud of the work second graders have done, and all the ways they've demonstrated care for each other and their community during this time.

### Art

This spring students explored the *Elements of Art* - line, shape, color, form, pattern, and texture - through asynchronous virtual lessons. Students gained an understanding of specific elements of art through weekly assignments that included step-by-step project instructions, pre-recorded reading of related picture books, and links to on-line resources. Students were able to independently explore concepts through assignments shared in written and video form. Students shared their completed projects

through SeeSaw, giving students the opportunity to experience sharing and receiving feedback from teachers and peers.

## **Music**

Second graders continued learning about reading and writing standard musical notation, musical form, classical repertoire, history of music, development of rhythm (through both movement and performance on musical instruments), and composition. Weekly music lessons have continued the second grade music curriculum and have each included multifaceted activities in a variety of formats: listening, writing, music technology, and free play/exploration.

## **PE**

This spring, through a balance of synchronous and asynchronous opportunities, second graders and their families, participated in a program that cultivated joyful, active learning through movement activities. Whether it was through Morning Meetings, or weekly instructional videos and additional activities, students reviewed and learned grade-appropriate essential locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative motor skills. The skills included: dynamics, agility, and balance, step aerobics and dance, throwing and catching, striking, and elements of track and field.

## **Science**

In Grade 2 Science, students learned about pollinators and, in particular, the vital role that bees play in ensuring the successful pollination of many of the essential foods that we and other animals eat. Students learned about the needs of living things and how the transfer of energy occurs in a food chain. Students then dove into the study of animal classification and life cycles. We ended the year with an experiential lesson that focused on observing a life cycle of a bean plant. Finally, students were encouraged to create an experiment of their own in which to further investigate the needs of living things.