



# The Super Second Grade

## Ms. Magliocco, Ms. Ferrara, Ms. Doran, Ms. King, Ms. Sconzo and Mr. G

### Parent Newsletter – April 2017

#### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

##### Literacy:

Mentor Text:

- The Earth Dragon Awaits
- Seek the Sun
- I am Boom
- Mother of the Mountain
- The Fool on the Hill

Lessons will focus on the following Common Core Literacy Standards:  
R.L. 2.4 – Describe how words and phrases (e.g. regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.

R.L. 2.3 – Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

R.L. 2.1 – Ask and answer questions such as who, what, when, where, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

R.L. 2.6 – Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

**Phonics** – This month we will be working with the following spelling patterns:

- Consonant patterns *kn, wr, gn, mb, ph, gn, ck, ng*
- Vowel patterns *aw, au, augh, al*

**Math:** GoMath! Chapter 8 – Measurement and Data

This month students will:

- Make and use a ruler.
- Estimate length in inches.
- Measure objects to the nearest inch using a ruler.
- Use a diagram to solve problems about length.
- Add and subtract in inches.
- Measure in inches and feet.
- Display measurement data.

##### Science:

Students will continue studying Earth materials and matter this month.

##### Technology:

During the month of April, your child will continue to focus on keyboarding and mouse skills, as well as proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed.



*“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought with ardor and diligence.”*  
 -----Abigail Adams

##### Social Studies:

This month the Second Grade will explore the following topics:

- Communities have rules and laws to solve problems and conflicts.
- Community leaders make, enforce, and interpret rules and laws.
- Community leaders represent the needs of the community to the neighborhood, borough, city, state, etc.

#### What’s New in Music and Art?

Mr. Cintula: Classes 220, 221, and 222 are working on their repertoire of folk/world music in “The Music Connection” (Grade 2).

They are beginning to learn music staff decoding skills and basic rhythm figure identification. Class 332 is reading through arts themed stories, analyzing vocabulary and viewing short films based on the books, followed with a discussion of the characters and the plot of the story.

Ms. Granatelli: During the month of April students will explore how to draw and paint a still-life.

Ms. LaMorte (Class 332): Students will continue study of Orff Bared Instruments (Glockenspiels, Xylophones and Metallophones) with proper mallet hold, learn 1 possibly 2 pieces, analyze music, beat competency work on quarter note, and self-evaluate.

Ms. Eliot: As the weather gets warmer, we’ll be moving outdoors with our songs, exercises, and activities! Please be sure your child is wearing comfortable footwear that they can run in on their Movement day!

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

4/5 – In Class Presentation – Audubon

4/7 – Elementary Spirit Week t-shirt forms due

4/10-4/18 – Spring Recess – No School

4/21 – Parents as Partners Earth Day Workshop, 12:30pm in 2nd grade classrooms

4/26 – PAWS Awards, 6:30pm

4/27 – PTA General Membership Meeting

#### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- All test papers must be signed and returned.
- Please don’t forget to send your child to school with sharpened pencils. Having to find and sharpen pencils for multiple students each day delays instruction and disrupts the class.
- We are in need of donations of facial tissues, and paper towels.

#### PTA News

We are looking for parents to run for positions on the 2017/18 PTA board and also for the SLT (school leadership team). Please let us know if you are interested. New people are welcome and appreciated.

Rock em not Sock em event has been postponed.

Our April PTA meeting is Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

Save the date:

We are having a Mother Son bowling event May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm at Showplace Bowling. Please look for an updated flyer in your children’s folders.

The Kindergarten Fashion Show is Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Spring Fair will be held Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help as always. Contact the PTA if you are interested in helping us.

#### A Note From Ms. Caccese

Dear Families,

Spring is finally here and we are heading into the last third of our school year. Our children have grown in so many ways and they continue to make us proud each day. Our upper elementary students had a chance to “SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW” on the New York State ELA exams last month and our younger students continue to practice becoming better readers, writers and math problem solvers...everyone keep up the amazing work!

We will continue to host opportunities to engage with our parents and work together to ensure the success of our children. We encourage you to volunteer your time at The Petrides School during upcoming special events!

Sending happy wishes for the upcoming Spring Recess...enjoy the ones you love!

Sincerely,  
 Ms. Caccese



As part of our ongoing efforts to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing of all students we are sending this important information about Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to all parents this month.

Many parents are aware that ADHD is a common childhood mental health condition, and most parents recognize the importance of staying focused at home and at school. Parents should also understand that it is perfectly normal for children to show inattention, distractibility, impulsivity or hyperactivity at times, this is part of every child's healthy development.

However, if you are concerned that these behaviors are impacting your child's performance at school or creating problems at home you should consider seeking professional help. Recent surveys show that approximately 11% of children have been diagnosed with ADHD and the average age of diagnosis is 7 years of age. Studies have also found that students with ADHD had persistent difficulties that resulted in lower average grades, more failed grades, more disciplinary problems, increased dropout rates, and a lower rate of college undergraduate completion. Several approaches have been shown to be effective for treating ADHD including behavior therapy and medication. Recent advancements in behavior therapy mean that many children, especially young children, can make significant improvements without medication.

Please see below for common signs and symptoms that can help you identify if your child is experiencing ADHD as well links to some additional online resources. As always parents are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult in the school with any concerns about their child's mental health. We are all here to help and we can connect you with local treatment providers when needed.

Common signs and symptoms of ADHD:

- Is easily distracted
- Doesn't seem to be listening when spoken to directly
- Has difficulty following instructions
- Has trouble organizing
- Avoids or dislikes sustained effort
- Is forgetful, always losing things
- Fidgeting or squirming, trouble staying in one place or waiting
- Trouble playing quietly
- Extreme impatience
- Always seems to be "on the go" or "driven by a motor"
- Excessive talking or interrupting, blurting out answers

Additional online resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control ADHD website](#): Includes basic information about ADHD such as common symptoms, statistics and treatment recommendations
- [Mayo Clinic ADHD Health Information page](#): Patient friendly information about ADHD including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and Self-management
- [NYC Well](#): Local resource where you can chat with a specialist and get a referral to a local specialist who can provide treatment