



## **Second Grade Weekly Back-to-school edition**

August 29, 2011

Dear parents,

It's hard to believe that summer has "ended" and school has begun! I'm very excited to begin a year of learning and growth with your children in partnership with you. Together we can, with the Lord's help, watch wonderful things happen in second grade!

The theme for the school year is "Equipped to Serve." We are so blessed at a Christian school to be led by Jesus as we learn and to have opportunities to serve others because of the love He shares with us. Jesus has blessed our school in so many ways, and I know He will do the same this special year. What a blessing it is for me to teach in a Lutheran school, and what a blessing to work with families like yours committed to their children's spiritual growth as well as their growth in other areas!

**HERE FOLLOWS A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT REITERATES INFORMATION I SHARED ON REGISTRATION NIGHT, BUT PLEASE READ ALL OF IT CAREFULLY SO YOU ARE AWARE AND REMINDED OF IMPORTANT PROCEDURES AND NEEDS IN SECOND GRADE. THANKS.**

As you read this, please be aware that your child has already shown responsibility in bringing home his two-way mailbox. This manila envelope will be sent home every day, even though sometimes it will be empty, and must be sent back to school every morning with your child. How does it work? I will use the mailbox to send home any school, classroom, or personal notes and any papers that your child handed in that she neglected to finish, called "finish" work, or to finish satisfactorily, called a "do-over." This will be indicated on the outside of the envelope by a star in the appropriate subject box. Your child should complete the finish or do-over work the same night it appears in the mailbox, put it back inside the mailbox, and return it to me with your initials in the last box on the right. Even if there is no work to do, the mailbox should be

checked and initialed every day. Any notes from home to school should be sent via this mailbox as well. I will be checking them every morning, just as you check them every evening. This has worked very successfully as a means of TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION between home and school, which is very important to your child's success.

My other method of communication is this very weekly newsletter, the Second Grade Weekly. This newsletter will be posted at Guardian's website ([www.guardianlutheran.org](http://www.guardianlutheran.org)) each Friday afternoon and also sent home via email. I will send hard copies of the newsletter to those of you who have requested that I do so. Otherwise, please find it every weekend at the website and as an email. Those of you who have requested hard copies will always receive theirs on Monday.

Reading is a very important subject in second grade, and its importance weaves through everything we do. Encourage your child to read outside of school every day. This need not be simply books, but could be magazines, newspapers, directions in games and kits, devotional books, etc. As the year progresses, there will be extra incentives for the children to read, such as Accelerated Reader goals, Reader's Theater, and Book It. For the first quarter of the school year, I will be teaching reading to the class as a whole. After that time, when I have become familiar with the children's abilities and needs, I will begin teaching guided reading, utilizing reading groups and work stations.

Memory assignments will be due on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week. There is no longer a memory book available with our new religion curriculum, so you will need to rely on the quarterly memory sheets I send home. (You'll have to ignore the references to pages in the memory book.) Memory assignments are also re-listed in the Second Grade Weekly, but keep the list of assignments for the quarter that I send home. We begin slowly, with easy assignments, but these get more difficult soon after, so please look ahead and begin work on the harder assignments to come. Many of our first assignments are not from the memory book, but please keep the book in the homework folder.

Spelling words will be listed in the weekly newsletter as well as at the website and on a spelling list sent home for each six-week unit. You have received the first unit's words today, but week one will not begin until after Labor Day. The practice test will be on Thursday each week, and the final test on Friday. Any child who spells all the regular words (not

the bonus words) correctly on Thursday's practice test is excused from taking the final test on Friday. The bonus words earn extra points for those who get 100% on the regular words on the practice test, and for any child on the final test, so work on those too! We love bonus points in second grade! Keep the week's words visible during the week and practice them, and I'm sure the tests will go well. Don't forget to use a special website, [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com), to practice the words as well.

Remember that good nutrition is one of the most important factors contributing to your child's maximizing of his brain potential. Please begin the day with a nutritious breakfast (protein is proven to be brain-friendly) and send a nutritious snack (no candy, desserts, or junk food, please) each day. ALSO PLEASE SEND A WATER BOTTLE FOR YOUR CHILD SO THAT SHE HAS WATER WHEN SHE NEEDS IT BUT DOESN'T NEED TO LEAVE DURING CLASS TO GO TO THE FOUNTAIN.

If you have questions or concerns this year, please contact me by email at [linda.ramthun@guardianlutheran.org](mailto:linda.ramthun@guardianlutheran.org) OR by phone at (313)617-8701. You can also catch me at school, but mornings are very difficult for this since we need to begin our day according to schedule.

**THIS WEEK:**

**RELIGION:** Creation and the First Sin.

**MEMORY:** Tuesday: none

Thursday: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

**READING:** Unit intro and theme launch; "Franny and Ginny;" August poem of the month; predicting; reread for fluency.

**PHONICS:** short a, i, u and initial l, r, s blends.

**MATH:** Unit 1: Understanding Addition and Subtraction.

**SPELLING:** We will not begin a regular unit until next week, so there are no words to learn. We will do some smartboard activities as intro and take a mock spelling test of high frequency words.

**ENGLISH:** Unit 1: Sentences.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Unit 1 Governing the People.

**HANDWRITING:** body position, size, slant, spacing; aA, dD, oO.

**ART:** none this week

**SCIENCE:** Unit A: Science, Engineering, and Technology.

**P.E.:** basic motor skills: mountain climb, cardio, etc.

**There will be a newsletter every week, but it usually won't have so much for you to plow through! Please read it carefully each week for any news or information.**

**I'm looking forward to a wonderful year!**

**In Christ's service,  
Linda Ramthun**