



# Second Grade Safari

2009-2010

Parent Guide Book

Deer Creek Elementary

# Table of Contents

Topic	Page
Scholarly.....	2
Classroom Assignments.....	2
Grading Policy.....	2
Homework.....	3
Organized.....	5
Desk Folder.....	5
Parent Volunteers.....	5
Friday Folders.....	6

Teacher Contact Information.....	6
Accepting.....	6
S.O.A.R with Choices.....	6
Birthday Celebrations.....	8
Responsible.....	8
Assignment Notebooks.....	8
Absences.....	8
Snack.....	9
Dressing for the Weather.....	9
Parent Questionnaire.....	10
Parent Volunteer Interest Sheet.....	11
S.O.A.R. Matrix.....	13

It is important to us, your second grade team of teachers, that your child grows and flourishes during his/her second grade year. To help your child experience a productive, safe, and happy year, we have established goals within the S.O.A.R. framework. In this packet, you will find the nuts and bolts of our program divided into four sections: Scholarly, Organized, Accepting, and Responsible.

## SCHOLARLY

The first goal of second grade is to learn tools and techniques to be scholarly. We teach students appropriate and acceptable behaviors as it pertains to classroom assignments and homework to help each child experience success.

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### **Classroom Assignments**

One goal in second grade is to help your child learn how to be Scholarly. Students are given every opportunity throughout the day to complete classroom assignments in the allotted time frame. If there is late or missing work, students will be given a chance on Friday during SOAR recess to complete these assignments. *If these assignments are not completed by the end of the day on Friday, your child will bring the assignments home over the weekend to complete but a 10 point deduction for each assignment will be applied.*

### **Grading Policy**

The second grade grading system is based on percentages. Your child will not receive a 4, 3, 2, or 1 on his/her report card. District level assessments and classroom functioning will help determine whether your child is working AGL=Above Grade Level, GL=Grade Level, or BGL=Below Grade Level.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Homework**

Another goal in second grade is for your child to learn how to be responsible. Homework is assigned to give your child an opportunity to **practice and review skills and concepts** he/she has learned in class. It is a great chance for parents and caregivers to sit down one-on-one and see what their child is learning about in school. If your child is struggling with assigned homework, please let your child's teacher know right away.

**Spelling and Math Homework is sent home in your child's Friday Folder. Please have him/her return all homework no later than Wednesday of the following week.**

### **Friday: Spelling Homework**

Your child will bring home two spelling lists and an accompanying homework assignment (please see monthly spelling homework goal) that is due no later than Wednesday of the following week. Please keep one spelling list at home to help your child use for practice as your child will have a spelling test the next week. Spelling lists are word lists your child needs to practice.

Your child's spelling words will be based on a skills assessment given at the beginning of the year. Once your child's spelling level is determined, you will receive further information.

**Monthly Spelling Homework:** Your child will focus on a particular skill on a monthly basis. Please have him/her complete the appropriate homework each month. Once your child's spelling level is determined, we will send home a spelling packet that will include much needed information.

### **Monthly Reading Homework**

Our goal in second grade is to build strong readers through the love of literature. To help us meet this goal, we ask that your child read as much as possible. Please keep a reading log and have your child

bring it to school with a parent signature at the end of every month. Our Raz-Kids online reading library is a great resource for home reading. Your child will be able to access the Raz-Kids reading program both at home and at school.

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## **ORGANIZED**

The second goal of second grade is to teach students the skills and behaviors necessary to be an organized student. Organization is a key element for success.

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### **Desk Folder**

Your child uses one folder in his/her desk to help them to be organized throughout the day. We help to teach the students to use this folder to store assignments to be completed. Through the use of the assignment notebook, students are also taught how to make sure unfinished work is completed and turned in to the appropriate location

### **Parent Volunteer Program**

The second grade is excited to partner with Deer Creek PTA to establish a parent volunteer program. Please fill out the parent volunteer interest sheet (located in the Parent Guide Book) and return it to your child's teacher. Individual teachers will establish a schedule based on classroom/student needs and parent availability. Each grade level will have a box located in the workroom that contains classroom projects that need to be completed. Once we have sent home a more specific explanation of the workings of our volunteer program and you should have more questions, please contact your child's teacher or Catrina Stratton, Vice-President of our wonderful DCES PTA.

### **Friday Folders**

We will send home a weekly folder on Friday that will include graded papers and correspondence from the office and classroom teachers. Please have your child bring his/her folder back to school by Tuesday of the following week as Friday Folders are filled and ready to go by Thursday. **If the Friday Folder is not returned on time, it will not be sent home that week.**

### **Contacting the Teacher**

Please note that if there is an emergency and you must contact your child's teacher, call Mrs. Fisher in the office. Because learning is important to us, we will not interrupt this time to answer the and after 4 p.m. If there is a change in transportation, please contact Mrs. Fisher in the office. If you need to speak directly to your child's teacher, please call **before** 8:45 a.m. or **after** 4:00 p.m.

ALL VISITORS to the school must sign-in and wear a visitor's badge. Visitors without a visitor badge will not be allowed into the classroom.

**Please arrange with your child's teacher BEFORE coming into the classroom; there may be times we are doing assessments and cannot have disruptions. Thank you for your understanding.**

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### **ACCEPTING**

The third goal is for students to continue to learn the appropriate behaviors to be accepting students whether it is in the classroom or on the playground.

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### **Behavior Management: Green/Yellow/Red Creek Cash System S.O.A.R. with CHOICES**

Students are responsible for their own behaviors, and we want to help each of them learn how to choose and maintain positive behaviors throughout their second grade year. **Our focus is a positive.** Your child will begin each day with 5 green fuzzies in his/her pocket. If your child has 5 green fuzzies at the end of the day, he/she will receive \$10 in Creek Cash.

Creek Cash can be used for items in the classroom such as...

- Free Homework Pass
- Lunch Bunch
- Switch where their school desk is placed
- Extra school supplies such as red pen or highlighter replacements

All Creek Cash is your child's responsibility and is not replaced if lost. Students each receive a wallet to keep in his/her desk to help teach responsibility and respect.

There might be times when your child may have to be reminded of our positive classroom expectations. Each child is always given a reminder. However, the second time your child's teacher has to give a "reminder"; he/she will lose a green fuzzy. This will continue until no green fuzzies are left and then he/she will have to put a yellow fuzzy in his/her pocket. A yellow fuzzy means your child will have to put his/her head down at his/her desk for up to 10 minutes and will not receive any Creek Cash for the day. He/she will also be asked to "pay" the teacher \$10 in Creek Cash.

It is also possible a student will have to exchange the yellow fuzzy with a red fuzzy. If a child receives a red fuzzy, the parent will be notified by a phone call or a Discipline Referral will be sent home at the end of the day. The child will also be asked to pay the teacher \$50 in Creek Cash. If any behavior is a threat to other students and/or your child, administration will be involved.

For further second grade expectations, please consult the SOAR with Choices Behavior chart.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

If your child wishes to bring in a treat to share with his/her classmates, please notify your child's teacher **before** you would like to bring treats to the class. The best time for us to do this is at the end of the day at 3:20 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. **There are students with food allergies and it is VERY important to talk with your child's teacher before bringing in any food item. We ask that desserts with colored frosting are avoided as this stains clothing and our school carpet.**

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### **RESPONSIBLE**

The final goal of second grade is to teach the children what it means to be responsible.

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### **Assignment Notebooks**

Another second grade goal is teaching the students how to be Organized. Every second grade student will receive an assignment notebook. It is your child's responsibility to keep it safe throughout the entire year. **If it should get destroyed or lost, your child will have to purchase a new assignment notebook for \$5.00.**

The assignment notebook will be brought home at the end of each day and is expected to be brought back to school the next day. Please make sure you sign your child's assignment notebook. This is a great tool for home-school communication as your child's teacher looks at the assignment notebook daily.

**It is an integral part of our daily routine and will become a valuable tool for your child.**

### **Absences**

There might be times your child is away from school for an extended amount of time. It is at your teacher's discretion whether

or not assignments will be made available **before** an absence. Many times, your child's teacher will send home missing assignments **after** your child returns from vacation/illness. All assignments missed during one day of an **excused absence** will receive one day extra from due date; your child will be given 1 day per day of an **excused absence** for make-up work. For example, if your child is gone 1 day, he/she will receive 1 extra day from the due date an assignment to submit it.

### **Extras**

Please have your child bring a clean water bottle and a healthy snack to school each day. ***Water bottles must have a lid that closes completely and securely. We ask that your child know how to close his/her water bottle tightly to help prevent spills and leaks.***

### ***Healthy snacks include but are not limited to:***

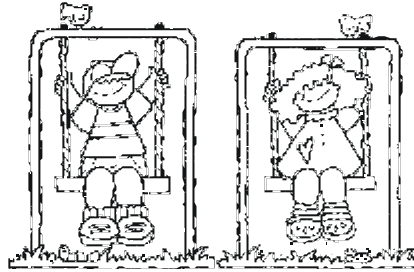
- Pretzels
- Granola bar
- Cheese stick
- Fruit
- Vegetables

Think of your child's snack as his or her BRAINFOOD. Students can also purchase a healthy snack from the office for .50 cents. Classroom teachers do not provide snacks.

### **Keeping Your Child Warm**

It is very important that your child dresses appropriately for the weather. If the weather is too cold, windy, snowy, or rainy, **all** students will be kept inside as per school policy. Please have your child bring a coat, hat, and mittens/gloves to school during the winter. There will be days it's sunny in the morning and by lunch, it's already snowed two inches. **If your child wears snow boots to school, please send a pair of dry shoes for him/her to change into inside the classroom.** We spend a great deal of time sitting

on the floor and it's very uncomfortable to sit in a pile of snow or mud.



## Parent Questionnaire

Please return to your child's teacher.

My Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. These are things I really enjoy about my child:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Things I wish my child could improve on:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Types of hobbies or special interests my child has:

4. My child's jobs and responsibilities at home are:

My child's name \_\_\_\_\_

5. Outside activities my child participates in (please include day):

6. My child's feelings about the school year

7. Things I would like the teacher to know about my child:

8. If I were to choose a goal for my child this year, it would be:

*Other things you think I should know about your child.....*

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire about your child.*

### **Parent Volunteer Interest Sheet**

\_\_\_\_\_ **FRY word practice:** come in during teacher specified time to pull individual students and work on FRY words. Can be 1X/month or more depending on amount of parent interest and available time slots.

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPELLING:** Need for one parent who can come into school on a weekly basis to compile spelling lists, organize, and file lists into Friday Folders. Wednesday or Thursday a.m. or p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Stuff Friday Folders:** Need for parent to come in on Thursday a.m. or p.m. or Friday a.m. to file papers and stuff Friday Folders.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Read/Write with students:** Teacher will determine day/time to read /write with small groups of children or individual students.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Projects:** Teacher will determine projects needed- could be at home projects or at school projects such as cutting, pasting, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Room parent:** In charge of classroom parties

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** I have a special skill or talent I'd like to share with the students:

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**Please prioritize your choices by marking with a 1, 2, or 3. We will make every attempt to grant your first wish.**

\_\_\_\_\_ your name

\_\_\_\_\_ child's  
name

\_\_\_\_\_child's  
teacher

\_\_\_\_\_contact  
number

\_\_\_\_\_ideal days &  
times