

Second Grade News

MARCH 2012

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ISSUE SIX



Current Units of Study

Reading

The next unit in reading is called "Getting to Know Characters." We will explore the following questions:

How can I get to know the characters better?

How did the characters change in the story and why?

How did the character's actions affect other characters and the outcome of the story? Why did they choose to do that?

When I'm reading, how can I change my voice to show the characters feelings? Readers get to know the characters in stories by analyzing their actions and using character traits to describe them. Students will compare/contrast characters in the same story and make connections to other stories with similar characters. In addition, students will examine how a character's

behavior changes throughout a story as a result of the setting and events. We will make meaningful predictions based on the character's past actions, feelings, motivations. As a result of this thorough analysis of the character, students will be encouraged to read showing the character's feelings in the story.

Theme

Students are now in the midst of a science unit titled "Energy." In this unit, students are learning how to observe the world using scientists' eyes. They are also learning how to use the investigation cycle to ask questions about the world around them, use those questions to plan and conduct experiments, and reflect upon the results to find answers and generate more questions. Through their investigations, they are using different tools to measure properties and record their findings.

These investigations are centered around a few big understandings about energy. Students are learning that there are different kinds of energy and that materials have different properties and **can** exist in different states (solid, liquid, and gas). Students are also learning that energy can change a material's state through heating or cooling as well as through chemical reactions.

Math

In Unit 9, students will (1) Estimate and measure in nonstandard and standard measurement; (2) Compare U.S. customary and metric units; (3) Measure to the nearest inch and centimeter; (4) Compare and measure lengths; (5) Measure to the nearest centimeter and inch; (6) Count square centimeters and find a perimeter (identifying the median); (7) Compare and estimate weights; and (8) Begin to explore equivalent measures involving a rule.

Upcoming Events

March 5 - G2-G3 Transition Night
March 7 - World Maths Day

March 8 - Tai Tam Field Day
March 12 - G2-G3 Transition Night
March 14 - 6AM Science Museum Field Trip
March 22 and 23 - Student Led Conferences

Writing

As we continue to raise the quality of your child's narrative writing, our goal in 2nd grade is to also support the volume of writing. In our current unit of Personal Narratives, we are teaching children to grow both quality and quantity of writing.

Students are now focusing on writing gripping stories. They do this by focusing on turning the previously written sequential chain of events into something that actually feels like a story. They are learning how to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations. This unit is made with the intent that your child will further develop their own life story as they write personal narratives in gripping ways. We are working on writing narratives that can identify the "heart" of the story. This is the part that brings the meaning of the piece home for the reader. Writers identify the heart of the story and spend more time giving it more lines and more weight. It becomes metaphorically, the "biggest" part of the story. The longer that part of the story is, the more the reader knows it is important to the author.

As classes finish up their units on personal narratives and move into fiction writing, students will learn that there are clear story elements and specific writing crafts that they can apply to their own writing.

Specialists

Music

G2 students are working hard in preparation for their Spring Share at the end of this month. Students will be singing, playing instruments, and dancing. We will feature songs from around the world. We will be singing songs from Africa, New Zealand, United States, and China. G2 students also sang songs such as *This little light*, *He's got the whole word*, and *Make a difference* at the Heifer Chapel last week. Please ask your child to sing these song for/with you if they haven't already! For SLC, students will be sharing their music journal that includes reflections from our performances and daily activities in music class.

Art

Grade Two artists have started a whole new and exciting Art project. In tandem with their classroom learning in Language Arts, students are developing ways to develop a character for model making and then storymaking. They are experiencing guided visualization in the artclass and creating a sketchbook word web to build information about the character, this in turn, will help to prompt the details they need to start sketching and making their model. An exciting process which unravels bit by bit! Children are already telling us that they are so excited they are even dreaming about their character!

Chinese

In the grade 2 MNN Chinese class is continuing the 3rd unit of "Good Habits." The essential question is, "Why are good habits important?" The textbook readings are helping to build knowledge to help students understand "Good habits help us to be healthy, organized and responsible". Coming up, students will learn to create a healthy menu in Chinese for their family.

The grade 2 MSL students are currently working on the unit, "In a Restaurant." Students are expected to identify and name different kinds of food, such as fruits, vegetables, main dishes and some drinks, and express their basic needs for food and drinks. As the end of unit assessment, students will present a small group skit about ordering, serving and eating in a restaurant.

PE

The Lower Primary Physical Education Department is looking forward to this months Student Led Conferences. Be sure to bring your work-out clothes, the students will be showing you around a "Station Day" and would love to have you participate in the skills.