

BRETON DOWNS ELEMENTARY
JANUARY, 2012 Newsletter
Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Eldersveld
& Mrs. Dood



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the New Year! We hope you enjoyed the holiday with your family and friends. We feel rested and ready to be back and hope the children do as well. We had a wonderful time at our holiday parties. A **big thank you** to all the parents who helped with the holiday parties. Thanks so much for all your support throughout the year.

Reading Workshop

The students continue to read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read. We hope they had plenty of time to enjoy books over the holiday time. If you and your family enjoy a special book we would love to have you come in and share a book talk with our class.

Our second grade literature program provides several different types of reading practice. Our read aloud time is a favorite time of the day. It is a great opportunity to share rich literature models with the students. By reading aloud, we help children experience and contemplate literature that some cannot yet read. In shared reading, children participate in reading, and get the feel of reading. Guided reading teaches children how to think about and organize information as they read. The teacher shares one or two teaching points during the lesson.

Book Club

The students are busy reading for our Book Club. Students are rewarded with small prizes for every 500 minutes they read. We welcome any ideas or donations you may have for simple and inexpensive prizes. Reading a few minutes each night would be a great New Year's resolution.

Writing Workshop

Our classes have been learning how to write a paragraph that consists of a topic sentence, three detail sentences, and a concluding sentence. Most students are doing a super job of writing using this format. This is always a cause for a celebration in our rooms.

Spelling

Please continue to review spelling words with your child. One way to practice would be to write sentences using their spelling words. We encourage using at least seven words per sentence in second grade. Remember to encourage your child to start each sentence with a capital letter and punctuation needs to be included at the end. Let us know if you need further suggestions.

Science

We will be beginning our study of Earth's land and water.

Computers

We visit the computer lab once a week to practice our technology, math and writing skills. Proper hand placement is very important. We would appreciate your help in this area when your child uses the computer at home. In addition, the wireless laptop computers visit our room. This allows us to try our hands at webquests and Internet activities where children explore and research selected sites.

Math

Please encourage your child to solve or write story problems. (Example: the temperature was 32 degrees when I left for school, it was 16 degrees at lunchtime, how much cooler was it at lunch?). Students need plenty of practice in this area of math. It offers a chance for them to practice both their reasoning ability as well as their writing.

We are working on money and making change. Please encourage your child to help you count money and coins. Making change is a difficult concept and our students need to continue to practice. Our goal at the end of the year is for our students to make change up to \$1.00.

Check to see how well your student can tell time. The first step is to be able to read an analog clock to the hour, to the half hour, and then to five minutes intervals. Our second grade math objective is to be able to read time to the hour, the half hour and quarter hour.

Mad Minute Monday

This is an anticipated event. The children love the challenge of increasing their number of correct responses each week. As you look at their sheets you will see where they still need to practice their facts.

RED ALERT FOLDER

Everyday the "**RED ALERT FOLDER**" needs to be returned to school. We are hoping that you will look at this daily with your child.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the High School

Thursday, January 26	No School (Record Day)
Friday, January 27	No School (Record Day)
TBA	Tour of a local restaurant
Wednesday, February 8	Restaurant Grand Opening 11:30-1:15 (Attire Dark pants and white shirt for children preferred) *Mark your calendars now, we will serve lunch!
Tuesday, February 14	Valentine's Day Parties @ 2:15 p.m.

Communication

Please feel welcome in our classroom, stop by for a visit. We are very eager to share our fun and experiences with you, so walk in our open door. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns. We want this to be a great year for your child. It is hard to solve a problem if we are not aware of it. Please remember to look for our newsletter the first week of each month. It will give you an overview of the activities we have planned.

Cooler Temperatures

Due to budget constraints, the temperatures in our rooms will be lowered. We think it would be wise for your child to keep a sweatshirt at school in case they get chilly. Please put a label on the inside.

Wish List

Brown grocery bags, paper plates, Michael's coupons in Sunday press, altoid or other mint tins

Book Orders

This month the book club has some great selections. The order needs to be turned in **Wednesday, January 11**.

Please make checks payable to Scholastic. Please remember to put your name on the bottom of the order. Please put "hold" on order if you would like to pick the books up at school.

