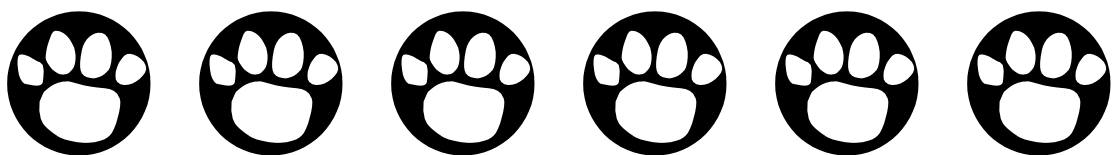
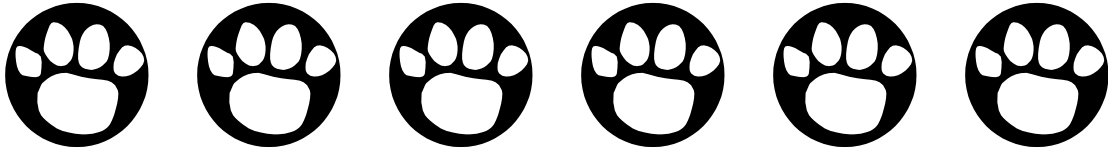


Second Grade Facts





Absenteeism: If for any reason your child misses school, you must call the school office in the morning to report the absence. The office will then let me know why your child is gone. If your child is gone for an extended period of time, I will gladly put together his/her work.

Attendance Line: (309) 557-4459

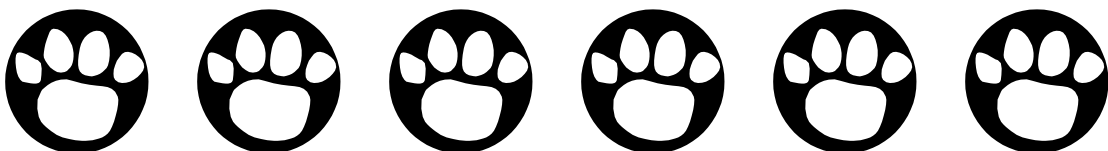
Arrival: Students should plan to arrive at school **after** 7:25 am. There is no adult supervision available before 7:25 am.

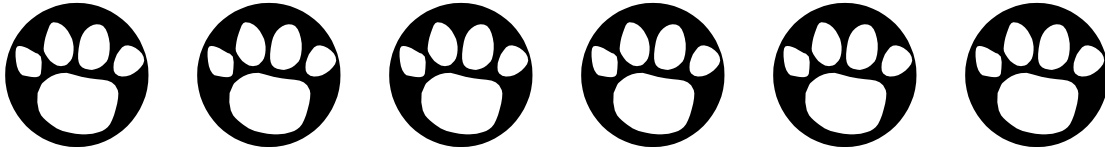
Behavior Management: We will be following the same expectations as the rest of the school. We will be going over these expectations the first couple weeks of school.

As a class we will use Super Student Bucks to reinforce appropriate behaviors. Students will have opportunities to earn Super Student Bucks when they are making positive choices. Students will also need to pay Super Student Bucks when they are making poor choices. Students will be able to spend their Super Student Bucks throughout the year on a variety of different items. Some of these will be "things" others will be "experiences."

There will also be a variety of positive reinforcement throughout the year. These will be within the classroom and as a whole school. As a whole school students will be able to earn "bear growls" and "bear bucks" for making good choices.

Birthdays: Birthdays are a special time for children. We will be sure to recognize your child's birthday here at school. Students are not allowed to bring food treats for the class. The wording in our handbook states, "*Unit 5 believes that birthdays are special for children. As a school district, in order to promote a healthy school environment, birthday recognitions cannot include food items.*" If your child would like to bring a nonfood item for the class such as a pencil or other small item instead of a food treat, they may do so. We will celebrate summer birthdays on their 1/2 birthday. If you plan to have a party outside of school, please do not send





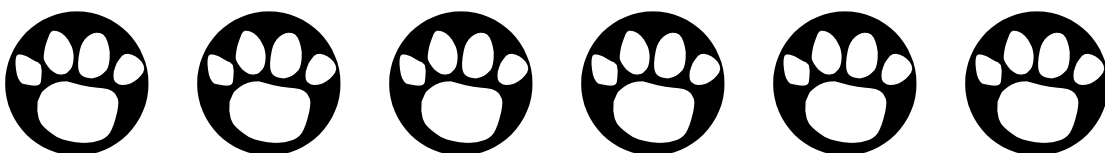
the invitations to school, unless you plan on inviting the entire class, or all of the boys or all of the girls.

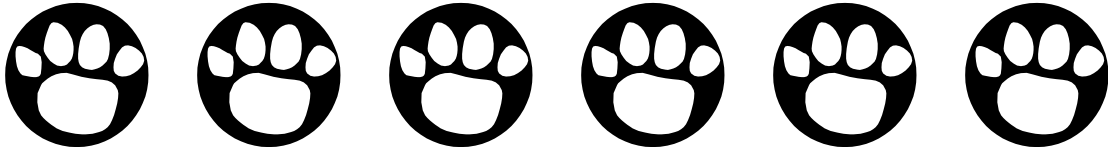
Book Orders: I will send home several book orders at a time every month. These book orders are good for finding birthday and other holiday gifts. When you purchase from these book orders, it creates classroom points. I am then able to make purchases for items that will be used in the classroom.

Communication: Communication is key in making this a successful year. I will be updating my website throughout the year with important information. It is easy to access my website through the Benjamin School website. I will also be sending home bi-weekly newsletters. The newsletters will keep you updated on what we are learning during the week. The best way to reach me during the day is email. I read my email frequently during the day. **However, I may not always be able to respond immediately. I am usually able to respond to emails at the end of the day.**

Dismissal: The dismissal bell rings at 2:30 pm. Any student riding the bus will be dismissed out the back doors of the school. Any student getting picked up will be dismissed out the front doors of the school. If your child is riding a bus please be sure your child knows the bus number. During the first few weeks it would be helpful for you to review with your child each day what your plans are for after school (walk, bus, pick up, where to meet, etc.). Any changes in the way your child goes home must be given to me in a written note or by email.

If you pick up your child, it is very helpful to everyone if you follow the traffic pattern. This helps everyone get out safely and quickly. Please stay in your car and stay in line. When you get up to the red zone your child should be looking for your car and will walk to it. You should stay in the car and they should get in on the passenger side. If your child frequently does not see your car please have a conversation with them stating the importance of paying attention during the dismissal time. They should be standing facing the front watching for you to pull up. Again, this is for the safety of all students and staff. Thank you for your help!





Homework: Math and reading homework will be sent home on Monday and due on Friday each week. I will also send home optional flying horse writing homework. Each month, if your child turns in all of their homework they will be in the homework club and will earn lunch in the classroom and a homework pass. Your enthusiasm and support helps your child have a more positive attitude about their work as well. Every week will be the same, so you will be able to establish a routine. Study guides will usually be sent home 2 days prior to a test. Also, students are expected to read nightly.

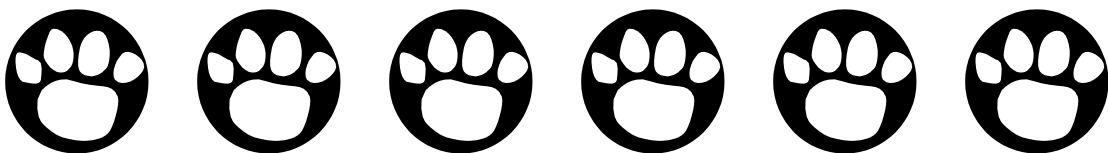
Independence: One of the goals in 2G is to foster the development of independent second graders. Throughout the year I will challenge your second grader in many areas and I think you will be surprised at what your second grader can do!

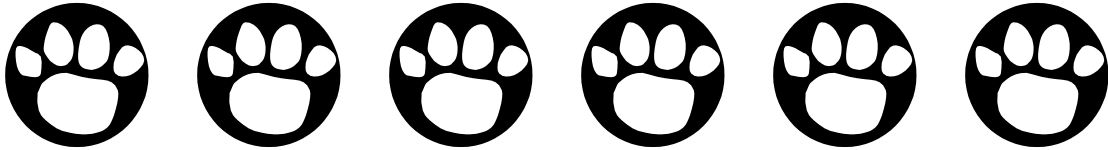
Suggestions...

- Homework: Never do your child's homework. Show your support while encouraging them to think for themselves!
- Responsibility: Make it your child's job to show you his or her take-home folder every night, get out the homework, put their names on it, and put the completed homework or notes into the folder for the next day. (A subtle reminder may be needed every now and then.)
- Behavior: Have your child tell you every day what color they ended up on and why they ended up on that color. Have them explain how they earned or lost money each day

Instagram: I have a classroom Instagram page that I would love for you to follow. I will post pictures throughout the year of fun things we are doing in class. Parents in the past have also stated that this is a great conversation starter at home because you will be able to see some of what we are doing each day.

Grades: Grades will be posted frequently in Infinite Campus. Please check your child's grades regularly for a good picture of how your child is doing academically.





Remember a 3 means your child has met the 2nd grade standard, a 2 means they still need support, a 1 means that they need significant support or even with support they struggle.

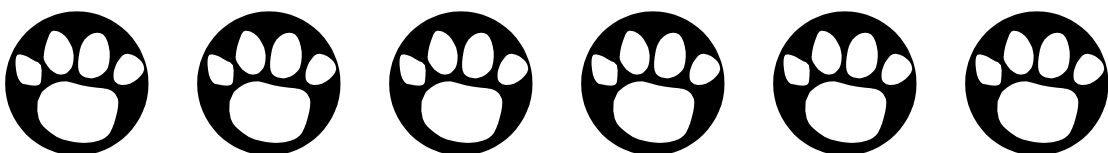
Lunch: If you would like your child to go home for lunch, you must sign him/her out and in at the office. Second grade eats lunch at 12:00.

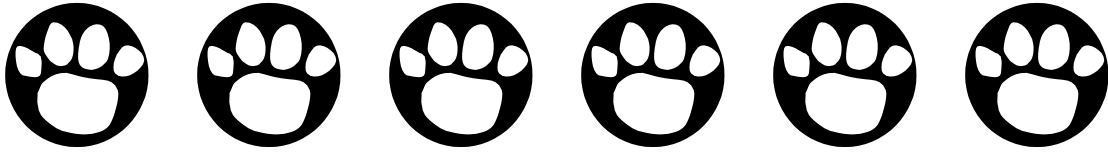
Money: If you need to send money to school for any reason, please put the money in a sealed envelope and include your **child's name and room code (2G)** on the outside of the envelope.

Newsletters: Newsletters will come home to you in your child's take-home folders, or emailed to you, once every 2 weeks. These newsletters will come home on Fridays. Expect the newsletter to inform you on classroom happenings, projects, and topics addressed in class. This may also be a source for upcoming information, parent involvement, and topics to be studied next. These newsletters will also be available on my website.

Reflections: Students will be filling out daily reflection sheets. They will be thinking about what went well during the day and what they want to try and improve upon for the next day. At the end of the week I will also fill out a quick behavior check on the bottom of the sheet. This is a great way for you to see how your child is behaving in class.

Seesaw: Seesaw is a digital portfolio that we will be using this year. Sign up information will be coming home soon. Students will be posting to their portfolios weekly. Students will do activities on Seesaw and can also take pictures of work that they are proud of and reflect on it in their journal. This is another great communication tool that we will be using this year. I will also be able to send messages through this app to quickly communicate. More information on this app is found in the information folder.





Snacks: We will have a snack break every day around mid-morning since we have a later lunch. Students may bring in a small, healthy snack for this time.

Take-Home Folder: Each child will have a take-home folder labeled with their name. This folder will be sent home each night with any mail, completed work, or homework and will need to be returned to school the next day. This is also a great place for you to put any notes to me or for the office. Each morning students will go through these folders and take anything out that is needed for school. Each child is required to have their take-home folders at school each day and it should be their responsibility to make sure it is in their backpack each day.

Website: I have a classroom website that you can get to through the Benjamin website. I will have the newsletters, pictures, and other important information on here for you to access.

Contacting me: Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. The school phone number is 309-557-4410. Email is a great way to get in contact with me throughout the day, as well. I do my best to respond to emails as soon as possible, but as I am teaching throughout the day, responses may not happen until the school day is over. My email is gerikear@unit5.org.

