



Dear Parents,

In this third six-week unit of second grade, students explore both literal and figurative bridges through the theme of building bridges.

Building Bridges with Unlikely Friends

“How can stories teach us to build bridges?”



Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will ask and answer *why* and *how* questions to demonstrate their understanding of a text. When reading literature, they will practice recounting stories, determining central message and describing how characters respond to major events and challenges. An author uses words and phrases to help readers identify the rhythm and meaning of a text, poem, or song; students will determine the meaning from the way the author tells the story or writes the poem or song. Students will use information from the illustrations and text to show understanding of the characters, setting, or plot. When reading informational text, they will describe the connections between steps in a technical procedure such as building a bridge. They will explain how images in the text contribute to their understanding and describe how authors back up their opinions with reasons.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

When reading grade level text, students will read with purpose, understanding and expression, and will self-correct errors and/or re-read as necessary. They will study common vowel teams such as *ea* and *ee* and practice recognizing words by sight.

Writing

Students will write to state an opinion, supplying reasons to support their opinion and providing a concluding statement or section. They will also write to explain a topic including facts and definitions about the topic and ending with a conclusion. With support from adults and peers, students will improve writing by revising and editing.

Listening and Speaking

When students participate in conversations with peers and teachers, they will be expected to ask questions to help them clarify, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic.

Language (Conventions of Standard English)

Students will use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs such as *sat*, *hid* and *told*. They will practice capitalizing holidays, product names, and geographic names and using commas in the greetings and closing of letters. By using context clues, known word parts such as roots and affixes, and classroom dictionaries, students will determine the meanings of unknown words and phrases. They will continue studying the meanings of similar verbs (toss, throw, hurl) and similar adjectives (thin, slender, skinny, scrawny).

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Second graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. In this unit, they will continue to practice writing words, sentences and paragraphs in manuscript. When using the keyboard, students will practice using the home keys as they practice typing words. They will learn to use the shift key to capitalize and use the space bar to place spaces between words.