

Welcome to Second Grade 2018-19

Laurie Porter & Sherry Yau

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year! Here are a few things to help you and your child get settled in our second grade classrooms.

In Utah Dual Language Immersion (DLI) second grade, English Language Arts, Social Studies and Science are taught in the English portion of the day. Math and Mandarin Language Arts are the main content focus of Chinese class. However, we try to support the student needs and curriculum in both languages. Please feel free to communicate with both of us.

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Mrs. L. Porter/Yau Classroom Supplies: Each child is invited to bring a set of supplies. Please see the supply list. Most of these items are communal so the only items that need to be labeled with your child's name are the backpack and **two**, 1" ring binders, with front pockets, if possible. Please send the binders to school as soon as possible.

Classroom Donation: Our second grade class has occasional snacks, a number of science experiences and field trips. We are asking for a \$20.00 donation to help cover PART of these expenses. We may ask for additional funds throughout the year; such as, field trip admission costs. If paying by check, please write the check to: *Wasatch Elementary School*. However, *no child will be excluded from an activity based on the inability to pay.*

Porter Report Newsletters and Yellow Homework Folders: Each student will receive two yellow folders, one for English and the other for Chinese. Each Monday Mrs. Porter will place a weekly newsletter, *Porter Report*, in your child's English yellow folder along with some writing paper. Please take time to read the newsletter EACH week. Students are responsible for these folders and need to return homework in the folders the following Monday. **This is our main source of communication with you.** Mrs. Yau will also send Math and Chinese homework in the green Chinese folder, and email specific information. Both Chinese and English folders should be returned every Monday!

English Homework: English homework will usually consist of reviewing weekly high frequency words, spelling words as needed, and one weekly **writing** assignment. These are ALL listed in the Porter Report Newsletter found each week in the English yellow folder. Students will return each writing assignment in the English folder the following Monday.

Reading: The most important part of English homework, however, is **reading**. As students become more independent readers, please continue to listen regularly for fluency and expression in oral reading. It is also good to read TO them regularly. Students may check out books from the Wasatch School Library every Tuesday afternoon and before/after school. In September, we will start sending home non-fiction "baggie books." The books should be on your student's **independent** reading level. If the baggie books seem too easy for your child, please send a note in the bag requesting, "Move up one level." Remember, though, that if books become too difficult, students may lose interest in reading them.

Monthly Reading Calendars: Second grade students are expected to READ at least 20 minutes daily for 5 days, 100 minutes total per week. Language Arts instruction can play an important part in developing readers and writers; even more important is building a LOVE for learning and reading. Reading consistently can enrich a lifetime, and is the number one *academic* indicator for future success in school. Please help your child to record minutes read at home on the Reading Calendars sent in the English yellow folders at the beginning of each month. We also encourage students to participate in the school library programs, **Caldecott and Star Readers**.

Birthdays: We will have a simple celebration of each child on/around his/her Birthday or ½ Birthday. A week or two before your student's Birthday or ½ Birthday, we will send home a bag with instructions. On your child's day, he/she will return the bag with objects to show the class. Student will tell about themselves, "**Me in a Bag**" that day in English class and Chinese as well, when possible. You may send/bring a small favor or *purchased* snack to share with the class on this day; however this is optional. Non-edible items are welcome. In order to be in compliance with the Provo School District Wellness Policy please be aware of the following: *Treats shall be offered infrequently in classrooms. Snack food choices offered must be less than 300 calories and must*

be commercially prepared and packaged.

Volunteering: You may have already volunteered to help our class in some way, thank you! We will also send notes and e-mails about parent opportunities to help our class as needs arise. PAWS Room Representatives may also call or e-mail about school activities and class parties. *Please record your service hours, so PAWS can keep a record of service hours donated to Wasatch.*

Toys/Items from Home: Please encourage your child keep small toys/trinkets at home. Toys/trinkets can be lost, stolen or distract students from learning.

Class Talent/Sharing Times: Near the end of each school quarter, we will have Class Talent/Sharing Times. Students are invited to share a talent, hobby or special “thing” with our class. Our music teacher, Mrs. Rensink, will have occasional Music Days. Children will also be invited to read one of their weekly home writing assignments to our class once or twice a month. Occasionally, students will be asked to bring an item that goes with a thematic study and, of course, we always want to celebrate life events: special family trips, new siblings, losing teeth, etc. Students may also choose to do a Great Brain Project about a subject of great interest to THEM. Information on Great Brain Projects can be found in the library.

We hope this will be an awesome second grade year for your child. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Positive Behavior Focus:

Safety...Respect...Responsible...Serve... and Ready to Learn

This year we will focus on positive behaviors our wonderful PAWS organization has selected.