



Ms. Taylor's April Newsletter

Explore the Outdoors

According to Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, experiencing the great outdoors is good for your child. Louv states, "When a child is out in nature, all the senses get activated. He is immersed in something bigger than himself, rather than focusing narrowly on one thing, such as the computer screen. He's seeing, hearing, touching, (smelling) even tasting. Out in nature, a child's brain has the chance to rejuvenate, so the next time he has to focus and pay attention, perhaps in school, he'll do better." Louv also claims that "exposure to nature has been shown to reduce stress and increase attention spans;" and, "kids with direct access to nature are better learners." As our Colorado weather begins to warm, you might consider taking your child outdoors to explore the wonders of nature!



Content Corner

Social Studies - Our study of Alaska has begun! Your student will be learning about the land, people and animals of Alaska.

Science - April marks the beginning of our study of insects. This is a very exciting unit featuring the lifecycles of several insects. Your student will scientifically observe the metamorphosis of mealworms, caterpillars and milkweed bugs.

Math - We will continue to review previously learned skills. New concepts for April include capacity, probability; as well as, mastering 3 digit addition and subtraction!

Language Arts - Reading and writing are integrated throughout all second-grade curriculum. Small group learning continues during Guided Reading. Additional instruction will focus on dictionary skills, prefixes and suffixes.

Thank you, Chef Warner!



Chef Tracy Warner (otherwise known as Brook's mom) visited our class at the end of February and spoke to the students about the reading, math and organizational skills necessary to be a chef. She also briefly discussed nutrition and health. Chef Warner then treated the entire second grade to freshly made crepes complete with fruit, whipped cream and homemade syrup! In addition to donating her time, expertise and all of the food, Chef Warner has been kind enough to pass along her much requested recipe. Enjoy!

Crepe Batter	Syrup
<p>1 cup water 1 cup milk 4 eggs 1/2 tsp salt 2 cups flour 4 Tablespoons melted butter</p> <p><i>Put all ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth. Preheat a griddle and pour 2 circles, expand batter with a spatula or other straight tool into a larger circle. Make them as thin as you can. Cook until mostly dry and then flip and finish cooking on the other side. Fill with whatever you want!</i></p>	<p>2 cups sugar 1 cup buttermilk 1 cup butter 32 oz. light Karo syrup</p> <p><i>Combine in large pot and boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add: 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon vanilla.</i></p>



HOMEWORK REMINDER

A letter was recently sent home informing families of the details of our new homework policy. Beginning this month, students will no longer bring home weekly spelling and skill packets. Instead, students are being assigned a reading log and individual skill worksheets. Each skill sheet is due the morning following its assignment. Completed reading logs are due on Friday mornings. Failure to return homework on time will result in loss of privileges.