**Mrs. Burger’s 2nd Grade Weekly News**

**1/3 – 1/6**

Dear Families,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break! I really enjoyed the time at home with my family, but am also excited to see your children again and get back in to a routine.

\*I know that our weather has been fairly mild so far this year, however as it turns colder, please make sure your child is coming to school dressed appropriately for outside recess. Winter coats, hats, and gloves should be brought to school daily.

**Related Arts for this Week: Music**

**Daily Lunch Time:** 11:37 – 12:02 pm

**Other Information:**

**-** Each day your child will bring home his or her **Student Agenda**.  Please make sure to initial in the box on the page to the right of the message.  Also, please record the title(s) of the book your child read that night.

**Daily Homework:**

* Read 15 minutes each night and record title in student agenda.
* Other suggested activities will be listed on the Snapshot for you and your child to complete.

**What will be learning this week?**

**Word Wall Words:** seem, feel, eyes, above, woman

**Reading:** In our next reading unit students will be asked to identify the difference between real and fantasy.  Students will be expected to show evidence from the text that supports their thinking.  We will then introduce tall tales, which are stories about a special kind of hero who is bigger than life.  These stories are based on a true person, but may be exaggerated to enhance the tale.  Students will be identifying literacy elements that may help them to understand tall tales, such as the plot, central message, and setting.

**Writing:** Students will begin writing sentences to describe visualizations from different time periods.  They will also sketch a picture and turn this illustration into a landscape image.  We will then introduce George Caitlin, a famous artist who traveled west on horseback during the 1800s to paint pictures of the Native Americans.  Students will also be observing portraits from Edward Curtis and writing down important aspects that they notice within the variety of photographs.

**Math:** On Tuesday after winter break we will begin our next math unit and new math classroom rotations.  We will spend this week reviewing addition strategies within 100, which will help us to solve three-digit addition problems with sums up to 1,000.  We will also discuss and practice solving three-digit addition problems where multiple regrouping is required.

**Social Studies:** We will continue our Westward Expansion Unit by discussing pioneer life on the Oregon Trail.  We will introduce the Pony Express and its main impact on the United States during this time.  In addition, we will discuss the importance of railroads by learning specifically about the Transcontinental Railroad.  We will finish this unit by completing a transfer task in which students will have to relate to the pioneers during the Westward Expansion and how transportation has changed from then to now.

**Important Dates:**

January 11th: Early Release Day, Dismissal at 12:20 pm

January 16th: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 17th – February 17th:  Class Box Top Competition

January 24th: Family Literacy Night 5:30-7:15 pm

February 3rd: 2nd Grade Carnival Party 2:30-4:30 pm

February 20th: No School, President’s Day

March 12th: Daylight Savings Time Ends

March 15th: Early Release Day, Dismissal at 12:20 pm