

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Second Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Science.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

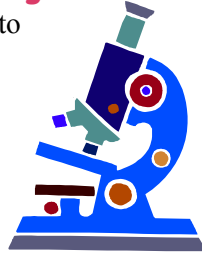
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Second Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach Science skills that will help students:

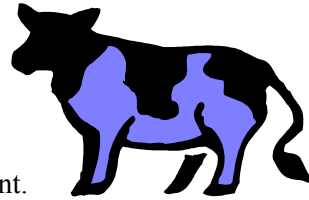
Learn by investigating

- Use scientific methods to ask questions, conduct investigations using technology, and gather, analyze, and communicate information.



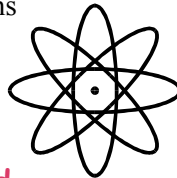
Understand living things

- Understand the structure and function of living things, their systems and how living things interact with the environment.



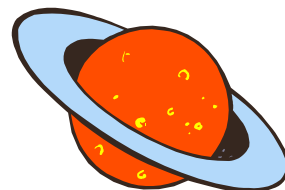
Understand natural forces

- Understand the interactions between matter, energy, forces, and motion.



Understand earth and space

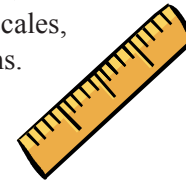
- Understand the cycles and systems of the Earth, solar system and universe.



In Second Grade, we teach Science skills that will help your child:

Learn by investigating

- Make a hypothesis (a testable predication) as to what will occur during an investigation.
- Communicate results through writing, drawing pictures and graphing.
- Discover similar results by repeating the experiment several times in the same manner.
- Use scientific tools e.g. scales, hand lenses, rulers, graphs.
- Record observations in a variety of ways.
- Develop strategies for solving problems.
- Use evidence collected to make decisions about how to proceed with a scientific investigation.



Understand living things

- Classify, compare, and contrast living things on the basis of observable physical characteristics and the functions of body parts.
- Understand the food, energy, and environmental needs of living things.
- Study familiar organisms as part of a food chain and their relationships within the food chain (e.g., predators, prey, decomposer).
- Understand how fossils provide evidence about the nature of ancient life (e.g.,

- extinct, ancient, and modern life forms).
- Understand how physical and behavioral characteristics of animals help them to survive in their environments (e.g., camouflage, migration, instinct).

Understand natural forces

- Describe forms of energy associated with common phenomena (e.g., heat, light, sound, food).
- Describe how sounds are made and the properties of sound (e.g., pitch, loudness, large and small waves).
- Explain shadow, color, and other light phenomena (e.g., white light, prisms, reflection).



Understand earth and space

- Recognize and describe different types of earth materials such as minerals, rocks and soil.
- Explain how rocks and fossils are used to understand the earth's history; including the ages of fossils and the sequencing of rock layers.
- Understand uses of materials taken from the earth and also understand the need to conserve natural resources by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Learn by investigating

- Complete a Science Fair project.
- Make a collection of things found in nature.
- Use the ‘tools’ of science such as magnifying lenses, telescopes, scales, and rulers to examine the world around you.



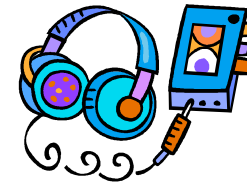
Understand living things

- Be animal watchers and notice how claws, beaks, teeth, and body coverings help animals to survive in their environment.
- Talk about the needs of pets, and give your child, if possible, the responsibility of caring for them. Discuss other animals native to our environment (e.g., deer, raccoons) and what their needs might be.
- Talk to your child about the origins of the food we eat (e.g. eggs come from chickens, etc.).

- Visit a zoo, aquarium, or natural history museum.
- Create a compost pile.
- Create a fossil collection.

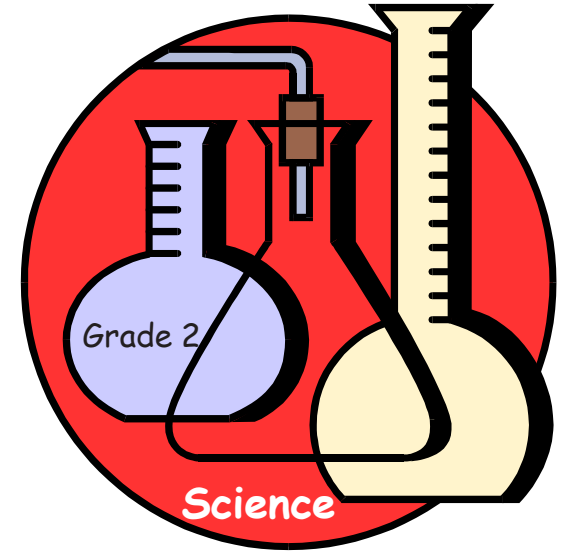
Understand natural forces

- Visit the Hands On Museum or the Detroit Science Center.
- Enjoy different forms of music by listening to music.
- Experiment with a prism or a kaleidoscope.



Understand earth and space

- Sort objects that can be recycled or reused.
- Collect samples of rocks and minerals.
- Visit the Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation area in Chelsea for activities with fossils and other interactive geology exhibits.




Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Second Grade, we're teaching your child important discovery skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?

 ...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>