

## Welcome to Second Grade

Hello Families,

I address this letter to families because this school year isn't just about your child and their teacher. It is about parent(s)/teacher/child collaborating together to have an enjoyable and educational second grade year. It also includes families working together to make nights like Open Mic Nite, Lit & Math Nights, Night of Stars, etc. a success. Collaboration makes the school year. I look forward to our educational venture together as well as working hard with your child to make their second grade year a memorable one.

I am outlining below, a few rules and routines inside the second grade classroom to make it run smoothly.

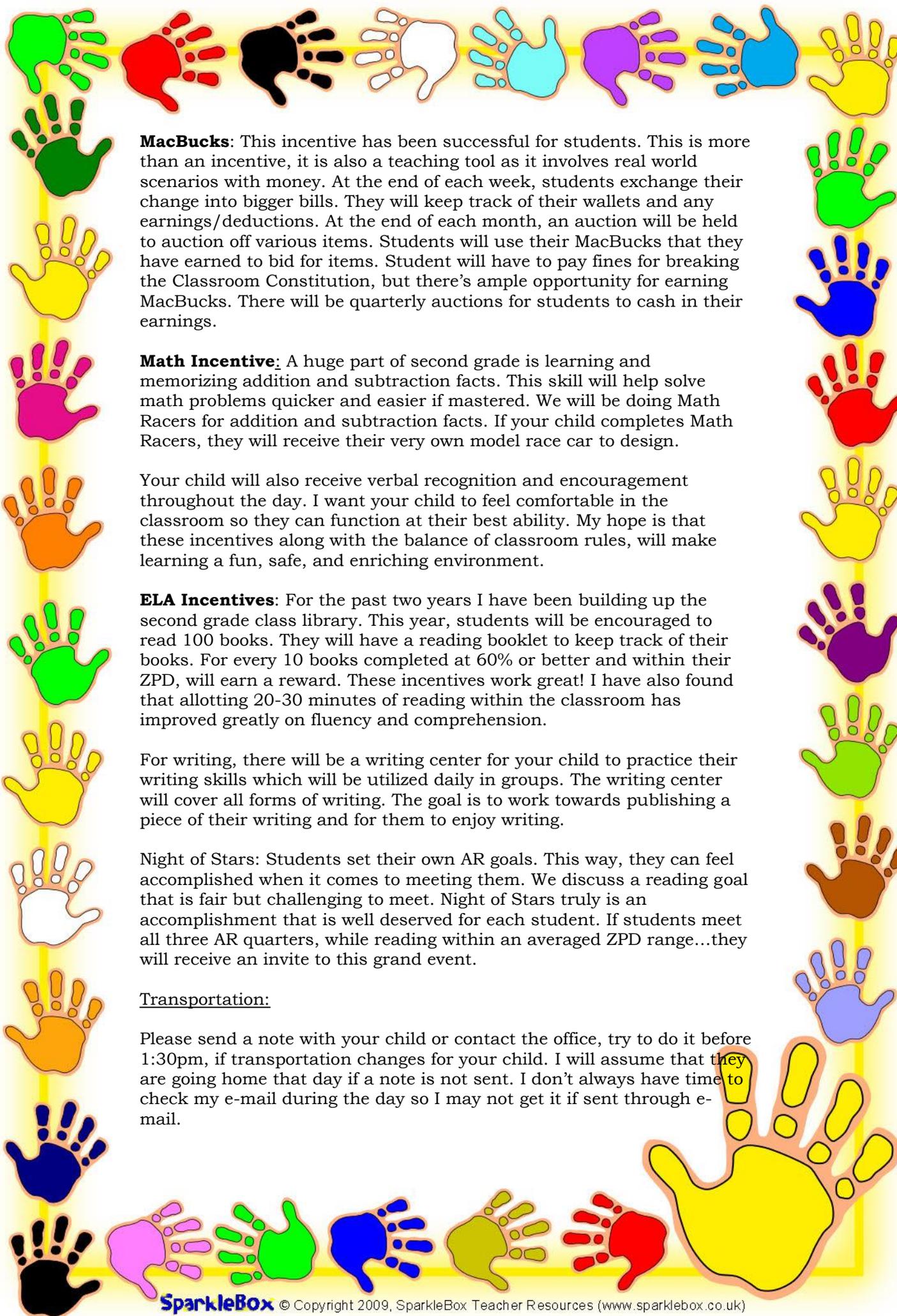
### Code of Conduct:

The second grade Code of Conduct will be developed in the month of September. We will be studying the US Constitution and developing a Classroom Constitution as a whole. This will be adopted for the rest of the year. In the meantime, there will be a list posted in the classroom of six rules:

1. **Be Ready to Learn-** pencils sharpened, homework completed, listening ears, etc.
2. **Ask the Teacher to Leave the Room-** anytime wanting to leave, you must ask the teacher.
3. **Raise Your Hand to Ask a Question-** we will be working on impulsivity and patience.
4. **Respect Your Teachers and Peers as well as their Belongings-**no taking or touching things that are not yours without permission and if someone says no, that means no. Also, bullying, hitting, etc. will not be tolerated.
5. **Stop, Look, and Listen when Someone is Speaking-** we will be working on not talking over others and patiently waiting our turn to speak.
6. **Use Inside Voices-** this includes...not yelling, civilly speaking to one another, and working out conflicts with calm voices.

### Reward Systems:

**Student of the Week:** This person will be appointed by the teacher to lead the class for the following week. This student will be considered a role model. They are someone who adheres to the Classroom Constitution and seeks to set a good example for their peers. At the end of every month, those who have earned Student of the Week will get to have lunch with Ms. MacCormack in the classroom.



**MacBucks:** This incentive has been successful for students. This is more than an incentive, it is also a teaching tool as it involves real world scenarios with money. At the end of each week, students exchange their change into bigger bills. They will keep track of their wallets and any earnings/deductions. At the end of each month, an auction will be held to auction off various items. Students will use their MacBucks that they have earned to bid for items. Student will have to pay fines for breaking the Classroom Constitution, but there's ample opportunity for earning MacBucks. There will be quarterly auctions for students to cash in their earnings.

**Math Incentive:** A huge part of second grade is learning and memorizing addition and subtraction facts. This skill will help solve math problems quicker and easier if mastered. We will be doing Math Racers for addition and subtraction facts. If your child completes Math Racers, they will receive their very own model race car to design.

Your child will also receive verbal recognition and encouragement throughout the day. I want your child to feel comfortable in the classroom so they can function at their best ability. My hope is that these incentives along with the balance of classroom rules, will make learning a fun, safe, and enriching environment.

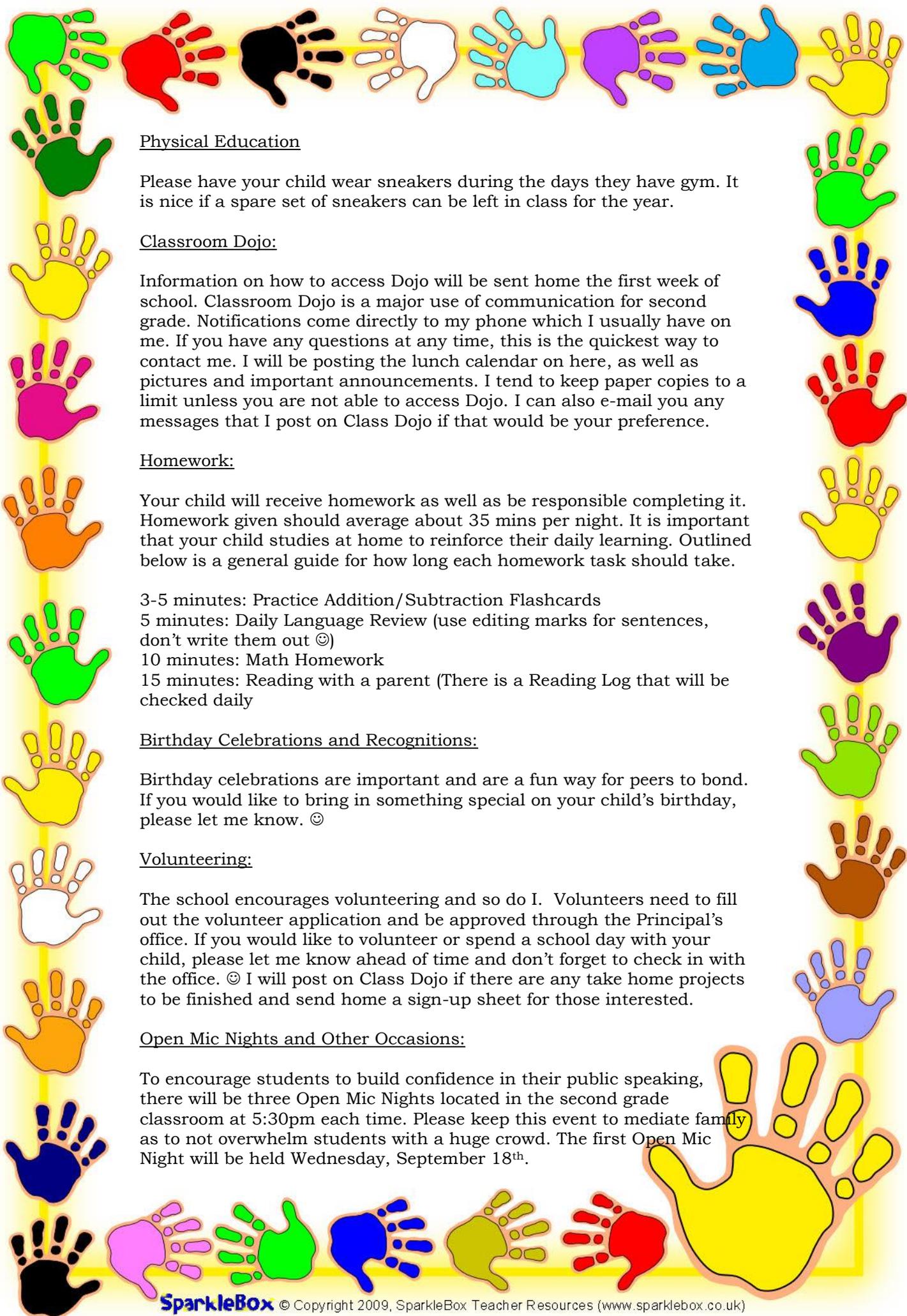
**ELA Incentives:** For the past two years I have been building up the second grade class library. This year, students will be encouraged to read 100 books. They will have a reading booklet to keep track of their books. For every 10 books completed at 60% or better and within their ZPD, will earn a reward. These incentives work great! I have also found that allotting 20-30 minutes of reading within the classroom has improved greatly on fluency and comprehension.

For writing, there will be a writing center for your child to practice their writing skills which will be utilized daily in groups. The writing center will cover all forms of writing. The goal is to work towards publishing a piece of their writing and for them to enjoy writing.

**Night of Stars:** Students set their own AR goals. This way, they can feel accomplished when it comes to meeting them. We discuss a reading goal that is fair but challenging to meet. Night of Stars truly is an accomplishment that is well deserved for each student. If students meet all three AR quarters, while reading within an averaged ZPD range...they will receive an invite to this grand event.

Transportation:

Please send a note with your child or contact the office, try to do it before 1:30pm, if transportation changes for your child. I will assume that they are going home that day if a note is not sent. I don't always have time to check my e-mail during the day so I may not get it if sent through e-mail.



### Physical Education

Please have your child wear sneakers during the days they have gym. It is nice if a spare set of sneakers can be left in class for the year.

### Classroom Dojo:

Information on how to access Dojo will be sent home the first week of school. Classroom Dojo is a major use of communication for second grade. Notifications come directly to my phone which I usually have on me. If you have any questions at any time, this is the quickest way to contact me. I will be posting the lunch calendar on here, as well as pictures and important announcements. I tend to keep paper copies to a limit unless you are not able to access Dojo. I can also e-mail you any messages that I post on Class Dojo if that would be your preference.

### Homework:

Your child will receive homework as well as be responsible completing it. Homework given should average about 35 mins per night. It is important that your child studies at home to reinforce their daily learning. Outlined below is a general guide for how long each homework task should take.

3-5 minutes: Practice Addition/Subtraction Flashcards

5 minutes: Daily Language Review (use editing marks for sentences, don't write them out ☺)

10 minutes: Math Homework

15 minutes: Reading with a parent (There is a Reading Log that will be checked daily)

### Birthday Celebrations and Recognitions:

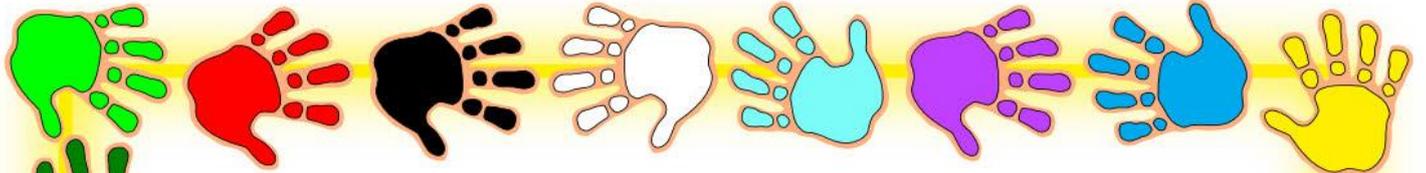
Birthday celebrations are important and are a fun way for peers to bond. If you would like to bring in something special on your child's birthday, please let me know. ☺

### Volunteering:

The school encourages volunteering and so do I. Volunteers need to fill out the volunteer application and be approved through the Principal's office. If you would like to volunteer or spend a school day with your child, please let me know ahead of time and don't forget to check in with the office. ☺ I will post on Class Dojo if there are any take home projects to be finished and send home a sign-up sheet for those interested.

### Open Mic Nights and Other Occasions:

To encourage students to build confidence in their public speaking, there will be three Open Mic Nights located in the second grade classroom at 5:30pm each time. Please keep this event to mediate family as to not overwhelm students with a huge crowd. The first Open Mic Night will be held Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.



Below is a list of events that will be happening in the second grade classroom:

**Tentative Dates & Events:**

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Open Mic Nite Pot Luck Event 5:30pm-7:00pm  
October 31<sup>st</sup>- Second Grade Halloween Party  
November 26<sup>th</sup>- Second Grade "A Plate Full of Thanks and Food" from 10:50am-11:30am  
December 20<sup>th</sup>: "A Gift from the Heart" with treats from 10:30am-11:30am  
March 16<sup>th</sup>: Open Mic Nite Event  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Open Mic Nite BBQ Event 5:30pm-7:30pm

These dates are tentative and some may change based on building space. More information will be followed as each event nears. Other events will be given plenty of notice before happening. I.e. Quarter assemblies

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me anytime. I look forward to collaborating with you on your child's education.

Sincerely,

Ms. MacCormack

**Forest Hills School provides all necessary materials and supplies for all curricular classes. If you wish to supplement those materials and supplies, below is a list of suggested items.**

**Supply List:**

- 1" Binder with pockets
- 5-tab dividers placed in the binder
- 2 Folders with pockets
- 24 Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Composition Notebook
- Addition & Subtraction Cards within 20
- Pkg wet wipes or Clorox wipes
- Gallon size ziplock bags

