



# Brainy BUNCH NEWS



Volume 3

November 13, 2008

## Dates to Remember...

November 18  
Picture Retake Day

November 19 – 21  
Science Fair

November 21  
Thanksgiving Luncheon – Our lunch time is switched to 11:36 – 12:01 for this day only.  
Reader's Theatre Performance at 11:25  
(\*Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving)

November 25  
Miss. Frisk's last day

November 26-28  
No School – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 30  
Magnolia's birthday

## State Quarters

The Brainy Bunch will be studying money in December. One activity will be to investigate the state quarters. If you have any state quarters you would be willing to loan us please send them, along with a list of those you're sending, to school by Monday, December 1. We'll use your list to make sure we return the correct ones to you before winter break.

## Why Do We Read Aloud to Children?

**R**einforces lifelong learning  
**E**nlargens vocabulary  
**A**llows for nurturing of shared experiences  
**D**emonstrates connections between oral and written language  
**A**rouses the imagination  
**L**eads to knowledge about a variety of books and authors  
**O**ffers opportunities for active listening  
**U**tilizes a variety of language patterns  
**D**evelops achievement potential

## Have You Heard About...

This is a partial list of all the things that have been keeping The Brainy Bunch busy. (books we've read, games or activities, topics we've studied, etc.) Please ask your child about them if you haven't already heard about them!

tagging monarchs  
 feeding turtles  
 tattling versus reporting  
 vote for books  
 The Road to the U.S. Constitution  
 weekend news  
 nouns, verbs, and adjectives  
 Author's Day  
 today's #  
 Guess My Rule  
 math Trail story problems  
*If I Ran For President*  
*It's The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown*  
*Time For Kids*  
*National Geographic Explorer*  
*Harriet's Halloween Candy*  
*A Place for Zero*  
 Dowser Dan  
 Biscuit Brothers  
 Veteran's Day Assembly

## Star Students

Every full week of school someone in The Brainy Bunch gets their time to shine! On Monday they share a poster all about them. (It will be sent home a week or two early in order to give the student time to fill it in and color it.) Later in the week they recite a favorite poem, share a current event that interests them, tell a joke and tell us about one of their favorite books.

Upcoming Star Students:

November 17 – 21	Colin
December 1 – 5	Baxter
December 8 – 12	Mackenzie

## Under Construction

The Brainy Bunch's new web page and blog is under construction. Check it out at <http://www.gullettgeckos.com/staff/second/southwell.php>



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## Second Grade Sight Words (aka Word Wall Words)

Educators have many names for sight words – word wall words, no excuse words, non-negotiable words, high frequency words, or vocabulary words. Sight words have these common characteristics: they occur frequently in print, are often abstract and many are difficult to spell because they don't follow common spelling patterns. Learning to recognize and spell sight words is an important part of a student's development as a reader and writer. A list of second grade sight words and suggestions for studying them is provided below. The Brainy Bunch will be studying these words on "Word Wall Wednesdays" beginning in December.

### Word Wall Wednesday Words

about	missed
after	move
again	name
animal	off
another	other
beautiful	people
because	please
best	rain
better	ready
black	right
broke(n)	running
brother	sale
catch	school
caught	second
children	skate
city	snap
clock	someone
crash	stop
didn't	teacher
don't	thank
drink	their
eating	there
every	they
favorite	third
float	threw
found	too
friend	truck
green	trying
happen(ed)	trying
hurt	two
it's	very
know	were
line	
many	
maybe	
might	

### Ways to Study Word Wall Words

1. Write a sentence for each word.
2. Alphabetize the words.
3. Use markers, colored pencils, glitter, colored glue, etc to write the words.
4. Illustrate each word.
5. Write a sentence, letter, or story using all of the words or as many as you can.
6. Make a crossword puzzle using all the words. You can make puzzles with the word wall words at <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/>.
7. Try to find "little words" in each word wall word.
8. Make a flash card for each word.
9. Make two sets of flash cards and play memory.
10. Record yourself saying and spelling the words.
11. Use Scrabble tiles to spell your words.
12. Use sidewalk chalk or paint to write the words.
13. Play hangman.