**Mrs. Slocum’s Room**

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**November 7, 2011**

**Aloha News**

**Charlton Park Field Trip**

Second graders will experience Hastings Long Ago on November 18, as we travel to Charlton Park for a field trip! Look for information in your child’s Mail Folder today. Unfortunately, I can only take 3 volunteer chaperones with us on this field trip. If you’d like to go, please make sure I have your name by Wednesday and that you have filled out a volunteer form on file in the office. If I have too many volunteer requests, I’ll hold a drawing on Wednesday. Please return permission slip by Monday.

**Writing Workshop Volunteers**

**I’m still looking for volunteers who are able to help during Writing Workshop, which is from 8:15-9:15 every day. It’s a very easy way to volunteer and lend a helping hand, allowing me to spend more individualized time with writers. Please let me know if you’re available to help during Writing Workshop, whether it’s 1 day a week, 1 day a month, or daily! Return the note that was sent home last week or drop me an email!**

**You’ll be surprised how much you enjoy working with kids in the classroom!**

**Investigating Science**

Last marking period our secondary focus of learning was Social Studies…this marking period we’ll be studying Science concepts!

Our first Science unit focuses on Properties of Matter and Mixtures. This Science unit will easily integrate with writing, as we discuss & learn “descriptors” to help describe properties of an object. Learning about “descriptors” in Science will help your child become more successful using descriptions in his/her writing.

**Send in those BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION! We’re competing in a contest to collect the most Box Tops! We’re at a slight disadvantage to many of the other classrooms because we have fewer students. That means we have to work EXTRA hard to collect Box Tops!**

**Thank you SO MUCH to all the parents who donated treats for our Halloween Party! I really appreciate your kindness & generosity! I also appreciate the extra help & support AT the party, and the kids LOVE to see their parents in the classroom!**

**2nd Quarter Spelling List**

The spelling words for this marking period will be given out during conferences this week. Please remember that your child should practice these words each week **(reading & writing)**, in addition to any words your child did not master during the first quarter!

**The Daily 5**

**One of our newest Café’ Strategies is to “Flip the Sound” when stumbling on a word that doesn’t sound right or make sense. Since many words in the English language don’t follow basic phonics rules, “Flipping the Sound” is a strategy students can use to help figure out unknown words. Vowels can be the trickiest letters to figure out, depending on the word. First, have your child try a short vowel sound, then the long vowel sound. More often than not, your child will be able to figure out which vowel sound makes the word correct.**

**In addition, 2nd graders continue to work on choosing “Good-Fit” Books…books they can read with nearly 100% accuracy. On the back of this newsletter, I’ve provided you with a hand-out that further explains choosing “Good-Fit” Books.**

**Please encourage your child to read aloud to you on a regular basis so that you can monitor your child’s reading choices at home.**