

September 21, 2025

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Dear Second Grade Families,

We hope you had a great weekend. Thank you for attending last week's Back to School Night. It was great seeing so many second grade families in person in our classroom! We're off to a great start in both second grade classes and forming a strong community. They're a terrific group of students!

Please click on the [2B September](#) Photos link. We post new photos every week!

Remember that there is no After School Monday and no school on Tuesday and Wednesday for Rosh Hashanah. And with Halloween approaching next month, please participate in the [costume and sports gear swap](#)!

We review both [Pick Up Patrol](#) and the [lunch menu](#) every day at Morning Meeting and we recommend you do the same at home.

Best,

Sarah Davies (2B Head Teacher)

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Bria Jourdain (2B Associate Teacher)

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Inha Yang (2A Head Teacher)

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What's going on in our classroom:

Reading

Reading groups begin later this week. Ask your child who their reading group teacher is. Groups will meet for two weeks and then we'll reevaluate to determine if each student is in the correct group.

Writing

We are beginning our personal narrative unit this week. Students will use their Identity Webs to find their "watermelon ideas" (important people, places, and events in their lives). Then they use these "watermelons" to find small "seed" ideas for their individual stories.

Foundations

In addition to reviewing short vowel sounds, consonant digraphs, and blends, students will be reviewing different syllable types. They will practice identifying closed and open syllables. A closed syllable is one where the vowel is followed immediately by a consonant and makes the short sound, such as shed. An open syllable is one where there is no consonant after the vowel and the vowel make the long sound, such as she. These are reading and spelling strategies. We will also review the [First Grade Trick Words](#). You can click on the link if you'd like to review them at home with your child.

Math

This week students will use Base Ten Blocks to build different ways to make the same number. For example you can make the number 35 with 3 tens and 5 ones. You can also make it with 2 tens and 15 ones and also 1 ten and 25 ones. This important hands-on activity lays the foundation for adding and subtracting with regrouping.

Social Studies

This week students will work in small groups to make maps of the five boroughs of New York City. In each borough they include cultural places and places with personal significance.

Read Alouds

In 2B last week we read *Henry and Mudge*, *Mercy Watson*, *I Live in Brooklyn*, and *Bigmama's*.

SEPTEMBER

22: No After School: Rosh Hashanah

23: School Closed: Rosh Hashanah

24: School Closed: Rosh Hashanah

25: New Parent Dinner, 6:30 PM

26: United Voices, 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

28: HUGS Jewish Families Fall Social, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

29: HUGS COM & HUGS LGBTQ+ Social, 7:00 PM

OCTOBER

1: No After School: Yom Kippur

2: School Closed: Yom Kippur

9: LSPA October Meeting, 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM

10: Admissions Open House

13: School Closed: Indigenous Peoples' Day

17: Crazy Sock Day

18: Pumpkin Patch, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Homecoming is 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

20: School Closed: Diwali

September 14, 2025

September 14, 2025

Dear Second Grade Families,

We hope you enjoyed the beautiful weather this weekend!

PICTURE DAY is tomorrow! Our scheduled time is after lunch in the afternoon.

Team 2 is looking forward to seeing all of you in our 2A and 2B classrooms on Tuesday, September 16 for Back to School Night when we will share details about our classroom routines and curriculum.

Friday 2B met their PKA Buddies! Each second grader is paired with a pre-K student and these partnerships will remain for the whole year. Second graders chose books and read them aloud to their buddies.

We have many new photos in the [September photos link](#) on our website, including photos of Buddy Time.

We review both [Pick Up Patrol](#) and the [lunch menu](#) every day at Morning Meeting and we recommend you do the same at home.

Best,

Sarah Davies (2B Head Teacher)

sdavies@polyprep.org

Bria Jourdain (2B Associate Teacher)

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Inha Yang (2A Head Teacher)

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Joyce Vizcaino (2A Associate Teacher)

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What's going on in our classroom:

Reading

Students continue to read independently in their homerooms as they get to know the classroom library. Teachers have been meeting with individual students, assessing and getting to know them as readers.

Ask your child about a book they read in class last week. Popular titles included *Babysitter's Club*, *HiLo*, *Elephant and Piggy*, and *Mercy Watson*.

Writing and SEL

Students are continuing to learn about sentence structure. This week they will identify the subject and verb in sentences. Students made identity webs and then shared them with classmates. Last week we read *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester to learn about both our outside identifiers (skin color, hair, eyes, etc) and also what's on the inside (our interests, experiences, likes and dislikes, etc).

Ask your child about the Venn Diagram they made with a partner and see if they remember something they learned about their classmate.

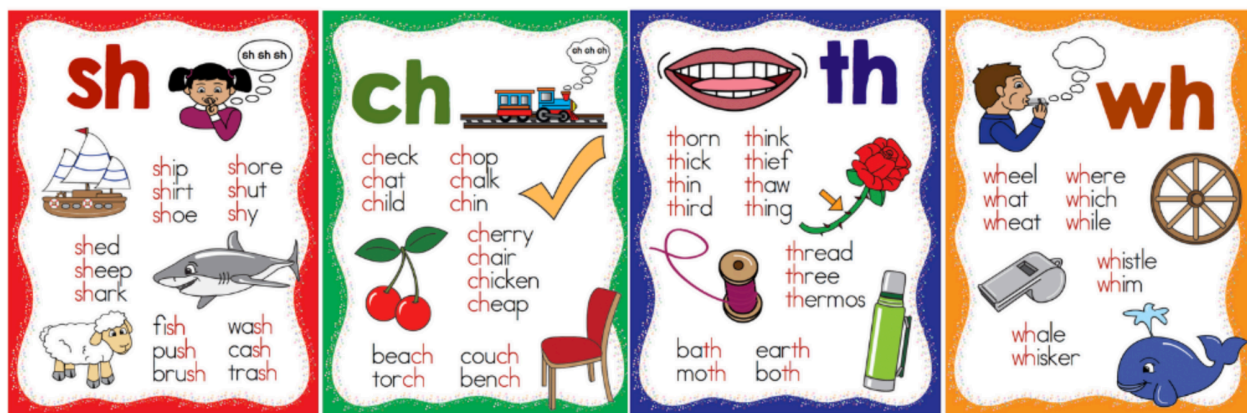
Foundations

Students are reviewing short vowel sounds and consonant digraphs and blends.

Digraphs are ch-, sh-, wh-, and -ck. They are also reviewing how to tap words and mark them.

Ask your child to demonstrate how to tap a word. Some good words to have them tap are ship, lunch, or blend.

SHORT VOWELS



Math

Students are working with Base Ten blocks and learning about place value (hundreds, tens, and ones). They learned how to write numbers in three different ways: standard, expanded, and word form notation. We also played math games: Chutes and Trees and First to 20.

Ask your child which game they liked playing last week.

Social Studies

This week we will look at maps of New York City. Students will learn about maps, map symbols, and the five boroughs.

Read Alouds

Last week we read many *Black Lagoon* books, *Each Kindness*, *Let's Talk About Race*, *Amelia Bedelia*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*.

SEPTEMBER

15: Poly Enrichment classes begin

15: School Picture Day

19: Blue Devil Night

22: No After School: Rosh Hashanah

23: School Closed: Rosh Hashanah

24: School Closed: Rosh Hashanah

25: New Parent Dinner, 6:30 PM

26: United Voices, 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

29: HUGS COM & HUGS LGBTQ+ Social, 7:00 PM

September 7, 2025

September 7, 2025

Dear Second Grade Families,

We hope you had a wonderful weekend! We had a terrific first week of school with your children and can't wait for the rest of the year!

Every Sunday Team 2 (2A and 2B) will send you a link to our websites to read our weekly newsletter. It will include details about what's going on in our classrooms and the Lower School, as well as reminders, links, and important dates. We'll try to consolidate as much information in this weekly newsletter so we don't inundate you with extra emails throughout the week. This is also a chance to look at photos from school. The photos are for you to see what we're doing in school and to look at them with your child to spark conversations. There are many photos on the [September Photos page](#) from our first week.

If you want to reach us, please email us. Please also remember to include both teachers in the homeroom on your emails. We're looking forward to building strong partnerships with you this year. Dismissal changes should be made through [Pick Up Patrol](#) and as early as possible during the day. We check the students' dismissal plans every morning at Meeting and will email you if your child sees a discrepancy. If you have any questions or changes, please email Mr. Nathaniel Meek at nmeek@polyprep.org in addition to your homeroom teachers. Mr. Meek is the director of Poly PM and also maintains the Pickup Patrol site. For absences, please email lsabsences@polyprep.org. Please welcome our new school nurse, Lisa Schroeder. You can email her directly at lschroeder@polyprep.org. She is also copied on the lsabsences email address.

Our priority the first few weeks of school is to create a classroom community. We are getting to know each other and settling into classroom routines. Please remember to send in 3 - 5 photos for your child to share with the class and then to hang up in their cubby. They can be of family, pets, friends, activities, etc. You can also email them to us and we will print them for you.

Homework is starting this week. A homework folder and a math workbook or math worksheet will go home with your child each afternoon. Your child should bring both the folder and workbook back to school each day. Homework is checked daily. On a typical evening your child will have twenty minutes of reading, a reading log, and about two pages of math homework that reflects what we're doing in class.

For birthdays in second grade, we invite families to bring a favorite story to read aloud to the class. Please email your homeroom teachers when your child's birthday is approaching if you're interested in scheduling a 10 - 15 minute time.

We review the lunch menu every day at Morning Meeting and we recommend you do the same at home. Here's a link to the [menu site](#).

Please remember to pack a snack and water bottle every day. Sending in extra snack is often a good idea since many children are hungry at dismissal time.

Team 2 is looking forward to seeing all of you in person in our classrooms on Tuesday, September 16 at 5:15 PM for Back to School Night when we will share details about our classroom routines and curriculum.

Your Second Grade Team,

Sarah Davies (2B Head Teacher) sdavies@polyprep.org

Bria Jourdain (2B Associate Teacher) bjourdain@polyprep.org

Inha Yang (2A Head Teacher) iyang@polyprep.org

Joyce Vizcaino (2A Associate Teacher) jvizcaino@polyprep.org

What's going on in our classroom:

Reading

Teachers will read with each child to assess their reading. Students will also read independently and explore the classroom library. Teachers will also read many books aloud this week in order to model good reading habits, introduce students to books we have in our classroom, and to build our class community.

Writing and SEL

Students are making identity webs to share with classmates so we can get to know each other better. The webs reflect people, places, things we love, as well as memorable experiences, hobbies, traditions, and more. We are putting up a gallery of identity webs. Students will refer to them to learn about each other, their similarities and differences, and also as a reference for generating writing ideas. Students are also reviewing the difference between sentences and fragments and where to put periods.

Math

Students are reviewing place value during this first unit in our math curriculum. They are using Base Ten Blocks to build, compare, and count three-digit numbers.

Social Studies

This week we will look at maps of New York City. Students will learn both about maps and about our city.

Read Alouds

In 2B last week we read *Chester's Way*, *Lilly's Big Day*, *Each Kindness*, *My Teacher's Secret Life*, *Amelia Bedelia*, *George and Martha*, and *Class From the Black Lagoon*.

Important Dates:

Monday, September 8: Regular After School begins

Monday, September 15: PICTURE DAY!

Monday, September 15: Enrichment After School begins

Tuesday, September 16: Back to School Night (in-person)

Friday, September 19: Blue Devil Night

Monday, September 22: No After School for Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 23 -24: No School for Rosh Hashanah