**Grade 2**

**Science and Social Studies Topics for Learning**

**2017-2018**

**Friendship**

This is a very quick unit taught during the first days or weeks of the school year. We look at the qualities of a friend and consider how our classroom and school expectations help foster good friendships.

**Earth Science**

In our first Science unit, we will investigate weather systems including types of severe weather. Our studies will emphasize the study of the seasons, specifically the reasons why Earth has different seasons and the characteristics of each season. Students will also record, chart and graph daily weather conditions, identify different clouds, use appropriate weather vocabulary and describe how technology helps to predict weather. This unit will also include investigations into the water cycle and its different stages.

**Elections**

This is a Social Studies unit that looks at the election process, the importance of voting as well as the symbols of our country and U.S. presidents. This unit is in conjunction with the River Trail School Student Service Council Elections as well as governmental elections in November.

**Geography**

Map skills are a major emphasis in this Social Studies unit. Studies will also include major landforms. Students will examine the community of Gurnee, the state of Illinois, the United States and countries in North America.

**Physical Science**

This is a Science unit focusing on the properties of light and sound. We will delve into different kinds of light such as opaque, translucent and transparent as well as investigating how objects give off light. Students will also learn that sound is formed from vibrations and work on hands on activities to explore this concept.

**World Geography and Culture**

This Social Studies unit continues our study of maps extending learning to include continents and countries of the world. There will be an emphasis on culture using fairy tales and folk tales as the vehicles to examine the similarities and differences among the cultures in our world.

**Physical Science**

In our final Science unit, we will investigate force and motion. Our studies will emphasize the impact of varying strengths and friction on the movement of objects. This unit will also include an investigation into motion by identifying moving things and why they move.