

# 1-DG Update

## January 12, 2024

### Reminders:

January 15: No School - MLK day

January 26: Report Cards available

February 16: CAS program: *Lisa the Wise* shadow puppet show

February 19-23: February vacation week

March 27, April 2 and 3: Spring conferences

### Highlights of our week

-We focused on words with the **-en** chunk (enter, pencil, chicken) and the **-ell** chunk (Ella, Wellesley, spell).

-In *Foundations* we continued our work with glued sounds, basewords and suffix s. We will take an end-of-unit assessment on Tuesday.

-We read the book A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, by David Adler and learned the poem "Martin Luther King Jr."

-I gave the students the *Primary Spelling Inventory* assessment to help prepare for writing report cards. The first graders have made progress in spelling and handwriting since September!

-Each first grader met with several teachers (Ms. Bartelloni, Ms. Sleeper, Ms. Mann and me) several times this week to complete a variety of different reading assessments. The results of these assessments are used to chart progress, set new goals and inform grades for report cards. In addition to this, Ms. Mannix has been administering English language assessments to students who receive EL support.

-In reading workshop, the first graders were partnered up and given a set of nonfiction books about a variety of different topics. The students learned how to preview all the books and think, *What looks the same? Different?* and *What will I learn about this topic from each of these books?* Then they learned how to use sticky notes to mark pages in their text sets with the goal of sharing their learning and texts sets with another partnership. Then partnerships were paired up into text swap clubs. Each partnership introduced their text sets to each other and then handed them over for each partnership to have a chance to read the books themselves. Finally, we learned to be on the lookout for key words - words that are important to understanding the topic. We collected key words and recorded them on sticky notes.

-In writing workshop, we worked on strategies to strengthen our nonfiction writing. We practiced giving examples; making a diagram and using labels; creating bold words that help our readers learn important vocabulary words about our topic; and organizing our bold words into alphabetical order in a glossary.

-In math we discussed the importance of measuring accurately; strategies to measure different items using cubes, tiles or paperclips; and how to represent  $\frac{1}{2}$ . We used inch tiles to measure paper fish to determine whether they were long enough to be "keepers." We have been working

hard on telling time to the hour and half hour on analog clocks. Please encourage your first grader to practicing telling time at home.

-In science we are now shifting our attention to creating sound effects for our puppet shows. We are exploring how vibration creates sound. We used our bodies to make the sounds of a rain storm and rulers to make the sound of a bouncing ball. We read the book What Vibrates?, by John Erickson. I sent home a copy of this book with each first grader to read with you at home. I encouraged the first graders to explore different ways to make sound effects at home. This will help prepare us for creating sounds for our puppet shows.

-Our *Second Step* SEL lesson focused on using clues to help us figure out how other people feel. Paying attention to how others feel can help us be a good friend. This lesson focused on identifying when someone feels worried and strategies to help.

Have a great long weekend!

-Dara Gaul