

1-DG Update

January 19, 2024

Reminders:

January 26: Report Cards available

January 31: First Grade Parent meeting at 6:00p.m.

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

-I introduced the silent / final e at the end of words by using the visual of Mean King Ed. Mean King Ed thinks he's more important than any other vowel. He wants to come first in words. He gets very angry if a vowel comes before him. If he sees a vowel in front of him, he takes his pointer and says, "Who is this vowel before me? Tell me your name!" The vowel yells out its name (not its short sound). Now, Mean King Ed knows he was naughty so he runs and hides at the end of the word! While he is at the end of the word, he continues to poke the vowel, making a long sound.

Example: mad becomes made.



-We read Here Comes Silent e!, by Anna Jane Hays.

-We learned the poem "The Big Sale."

-In *Foundations* we took the unit 7 assessment and began unit 8. This week we focused on words with blends at the beginning and end of words. We learned that unlike a digraph, which has two consonants that make a whole new sound, a blend has two consonants that blend together, but we still hear each sound. We mark blends with two separate lines, e.g. b l e n d. This week's new trick words were: would, could, should (ask your child about "Oh, yoU Lucky Duck"). We also learned about r-controlled vowels (ar/car, or/horn, er/her, ir/bird, ur/burn).

-In reading workshop we learned about vowel teams (ai, ay, oa); the sounds of Y (at the beginning of a word, at the end of a one-syllable word, and at the end of a word with more than one syllable); how to read a nonfiction book with the intent to teach others; and how to use a teaching voice while reading. We learned about the environmentalist Wangari Maathai. We read the books Meet the Cat; The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter, by Shabazz Larkin; and Wangari's Trees of Peace, by Jeanette Winter. The students also had a chance to meet with their partners again to read a new nonfiction text set. We are getting super smart about a lot of different topics!

- In writing workshop each student picked a topic they know a lot about and wrote their nonfiction post-assessment. They were encouraged to use all they have learned about nonfiction books (such as including headings, bold words, labels, diagrams, lots of facts, a glossary, etc.) to teach their readers about their topic.
- In math students took an assessment focused on measuring fish and solved fish comparison problems. They continued practicing telling time to the hour and half hour. They played the game *Five-in-a-Row Subtraction*.
- Our Second Step SEL lesson focused on being calm. We learned how to identify when we are not feeling calm and strategies to try to get calm. We also learned why it is important to be calm - because when we are calm, we can listen to directions, pay attention and learn!
- We had a special birthday guest reader on Friday morning. A fifth grade big sister read the book Happy Pig Day!, by Mo Willems to the class! Thank you!

-Dara Gaul