

# 1-DG Update

## January 5, 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 **-est** chunk (*estimate, chestnut, nest*).

-We learned the poem "A Little Guest."

-In *Foundations* we reviewed the glued sounds (ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, unk); adding the suffix *s* to words; and the trick words (some, come, very, too, also, put, two, why, by, my, try).

-In reading workshop, we are starting to explore text sets (groups of nonfiction books organized by similar topic). This week we began a text set about Muslim culture. We read In My Mosque, by M.O. Yuksel. Next week we will read Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns, by Hena Khan. We are learning how to take a sneak peek and think to ourselves, "What looks the same or different?" and "What will I learn about this topic from each of these books?" Next week students will be partnered up to read texts sets about a variety of topics.

-We began a new chapter book during read aloud time. We are reading The Penguin Who Wanted to Find Out, by Jill Tomlinson. This author has written many first grade friendly chapter books about animals. I encourage you to check them out!

-In writing workshop, we learned how to write twin sentences. Twin sentences happen when a writer explains a word in the next sentence or tells more about their previous sentence (the last two sentences I wrote are examples of twin sentences!). Another example is: *Owls are nocturnal. Nocturnal means active at night.*

-In math we started a new unit on measurement. This week we measured a variety of objects in our classroom and made comparisons using the words *longer than* and *shorter than*. We discussed the importance of measuring accurately and strategies to measure different items. The first graders used a piece of string to measure different items in the classroom. We talked about the importance of everyone using the same measurement tool after reading the book How Big is a Foot?, by Rolf Myller.

-In science we designed puppet characters attached to skewers which we can use to move around in our shadow puppet scenes.

-During our SEL lesson, we read the book Each Kindness, by Jacqueline Woodson. This is a very powerful story and I encourage you to ask your child about the story and the symbolism of dropping stones in the water to make ripples.

Have a great weekend!

-Dara Gaul