

1-DG Update

October 20, 2023

Reminders:

October 25, November 1 and 2 (half day Thursday): Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 31: Halloween parade 8:45 a.m.

November 10: No School - Veteran's Day

November 23-27: Thanksgiving Break

Highlights of our week

- This week we learned the -in chunk. We recorded words such as interesting, finish, pumpkin.
- We learned the poem "Pumpkin, Pumpkin."
- In *Foundations* we finished up unit 3 which focused on words with the digraphs (ch, sh, th, wh and ck). Our new trick words were: or and for. We took an end-of-unit assessment on Friday.
- In reading workshop we learned how to do a slow check when decoding a tricky word. We say the word slowly as we slide our finger under it to check that all the letters match the sounds we are saying. We also worked on strategies to improve our comprehension of the books we read. We learned that good readers notice when they are confused and reread or read ahead to improve their understanding. We practiced rereading and reading ahead with the book A New Kind of Wild, by Zara Gonzalez Hoang and a short story called Gertie's story (about riding a roller coaster). Each student now has a "Comprehension Quiz" bookmark (see below) in their reading folders to help remind them to check their understanding. We also learned that readers study the pictures in books because sometimes the pictures can tell you more than the words. Finally, we learned that when you understand your books really well it can help you make your reading sound better. You can make your voice match what's happening on the page. One way to do this is to really pay attention to the punctuation.



-In writing workshop we focused on editing our stories for punctuation and uppercase letters. We learned how important punctuation is in giving a reader clues about how to read and understand a story while reading the book Moo!, by David LaRochelle. Please ask your first grader to tell you about this book. We also did a lot of practice writing sentences this week. We learned how to use the line drawing strategy (see image below) to help us plan and write sentences.

The worksheet is titled "How To Use The Line Drawing Strategy" and is enclosed in a decorative border of circles. It contains four numbered steps:

1. Say the sentence out loud. Count the words on your fingers. (Illustrated with a speech bubble saying "We went to the zoo." and a hand with five fingers spread.)
2. Draw one line for every word you counted. (Illustrated with a pencil and four horizontal lines.)
3. Say the sentence again. Write one word on each line. (The words "We", "went", "to", "the", and "zoo." are written on five separate lines.)
4. Reread the sentence to make sure it makes sense. (Illustrated with a speech bubble saying "We went to the zoo." and a large checkmark.)

-In math we filled outlines with a variety of shapes. We learned that you can fill an outline with big shapes (like hexagons) to get a small total number of shapes used, while that same shape can be filled with small shapes (like triangles) to get a large total number. We did *Quick Images with Shapes*.

-In social studies we learned more about rural, suburban and urban communities. We created flipbooks where the first graders drew and labeled what rural, suburban and urban communities look like and what you might find in these communities.

-Our SEL lesson from the *Second Step* program focused on thinking and saying helpful thoughts to ourselves to help work through challenges while learning and practicing something new.

Halloween Information

-Sprague's Annual Halloween Parade will take place on Tuesday, October 31 around 8:45 a.m. I will attach (to an email) a parade route map with labels indicating where each class will meet after the parade for a group photo. Families are welcome to attend the parade and take a group photo at the end. First graders should come to the classroom at 8:30 a.m. (for attendance) dressed in whatever they plan to wear in the parade (costumes are optional). If your child does not want to march in the parade, an alternative activity will be offered here at school. Please let me know in advance if your child will not be participating in the parade and/or if your family does not celebrate Halloween. **On the day of the parade, please send in a large bag clearly marked with your child's name.** The bag must be big enough to hold your child's costume. We will be changing out of the costumes right after the parade, but please have your child wear clothes under the costume as we have limited bathroom/changing spaces. Thank you!

-Dara Gaul