

# 1-DG Update

## November 3, 2023

### Reminders:

**November 10:** No School - Veteran's Day

**November 22:** Fun Run/Walk - Grade 1 at 8:40 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.

**November 23-27:** Thanksgiving Break

**November 27:** Professional Day No School

### **Highlights of our week**

-This week we focused on the -ill chunk (illustrator, Billy, and chill).

-We learned the poem "Silly Geese."

-In *Foundations* we continued our work with adding a bonus letter (f, l, s) to the end of words with one short vowel and spelling words with the -all glued sound. This week's trick words were: *said, was, and one.*

-In reading workshop we received more missions from the SSDA (Super Secret Detective Agency). In order to become word detectives and receive their special badges, the first graders have to complete missions assigned by the SSDA. This week we accomplished two missions while reading the book This is Liann, by Jepilyn Matthis. Mission #2: Word Detectives look CLOSELY to get clues. Word Detectives make sure to look across the WHOLE word from start to end. Mission #3: Word detectives look closely all the way to the ends of words. They notice endings like -s and -ing. Each first grader used a special finger light to help them focus on looking closely at each word as they read this week (see google folder for photos). We are excited to see what our missions will be next week!

-In writing workshop, we are finishing up our personal narrative unit. We were inspired by the book The Cook-out, by Roderick Hunt. After reading this silly small moment story, the first graders picked topics for their final piece of writing which will be a post-assessment we will start next week.

-We finished our read aloud book Dory Fantasmagory Head in the Clouds and started Dory Fantasmagory: Tiny Tough.

-In math we solved a variety of story problems and completed *Quick Images with Tens Frames*. We read the book The Greedy Triangle, by Marilyn Burns. Please ask your child what makes a triangle a triangle (three straight sides and three points or vertices) and what do we call shapes with four straight sides (quadrilaterals). We completed some Halloween related math activities as well and completed an end of unit assessment.

-In science we practiced our observation and measurement skills with a pumpkin investigation. We wrote about our pumpkins using descriptive words and then measured and weighed the pumpkins. We even tested to see if different sized pumpkins would float in a container of water. Thank you for sending in the pumpkins! We also started out new unit on *Light and Sound*. Our unit question is: *How do we make different parts of a surface brighter or darker?* To start our investigation, we tried to make our classroom as dark as possible. This was a very difficult task! The first graders are excited to explore dark places and light

sources in your homes this weekend. Each first grader brought home a copy of the book Can You See in the Dark?, by Carolyn Jaynes to read and discuss with you this weekend. I also tucked a page in the book with directions to conduct an experiment at home if your child would like to try it out.

-We drew pictures of ourselves in our Halloween costumes and marched in the parade! See google folder for photos!

-Our school social worker, Ms. Kickham, came in to teach the first *Second Step* lesson focusing on bullying. In addition to this, I taught the first lesson in a series of *Second Step* lessons about Kindness and Empathy. The focus of my first lesson was on the power of kind acts. We learned that a kind act is something you can do or say to help someone feel good. The first graders were very engaged in the bullying and kindness lessons. Thank you for continuing conversations about bullying and kindness at home.

**Don't forget to set your clocks back this weekend!**

**Note:** As the winter holiday season quickly approaches, I would like to extend an invitation for parents to come in at 8:45 a.m. as special guest readers to read a picture book relating to their family's holiday traditions or celebrations. Please write me an e-mail or send a note in your child's Home/School folder letting me know dates that are good for you and what story you would like to share. Please also contact me if you would like to read a book in honor of your child's birthday or half-birthday. Thanks!

-Dara Gaul