

# 1-DG Update

## November 9, 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.

Donations: 1st Grade: *Tomato Paste or Canned Tuna*

**November 23-27:** Thanksgiving Break

**November 27:** Professional Day No School

### **Highlights of our week**

-This week we focused on the -it chunk (sit, kitten, and quit).

-We learned the poem "Split Pants."

-In *Foundations* we took and end of Unit 4 assessment. Then we started Unit 5. This unit focuses on the welded sounds /am/ and /an/. We mark the *am* and *an* by putting a box around them. This week's trick words were: *from, have, do and does*.

-In reading workshop we revisited *Mission #3 Word detectives look closely all the way to the ends of words. They notice endings like -s and -ing*. The first graders are enjoying looking closely at words with their finger lights! We worked on *Mission #4 Word detectives notice when they don't know what a word means. Then, they use the whole page to find clues that can help them understand the word better*. We practiced learning new vocabulary while reading chapter 2 of the book This is Liann. We read chapter 3 of this book while completing *Mission #5 Word detectives need to zoom in to look closely at hard words, and they also need to zoom out to think about the whole book*. Finally, during *Mission #6 When word detectives see a word they know, they read it in a snap. They don't waste their energy sliding through the sounds. Then they scoop up all the words they know to make their reading smooth*. We were amazed how many words we knew in a snap while reading the book A Crocodile and a Whale, by Annette Smith.

-In writing workshop each first grader wrote a final personal narrative story as a post-assessment for this unit. They were encouraged to write a beginning that introduced the characters and setting of the story; use transition words (first, then, next, etc.); use the word "because" at least once to challenge themselves to write longer sentences; write their story in sequence across several pages; and write an ending to their story that shared a feeling. This is challenging work!

-During our Morning Meeting time we continued our SEL lessons focusing on kindness. We read the book Can I Play Too?, by Mo Willems and discussed the importance of including others. We learned ways to be kind (asking "Are you okay?" and offering your company) and how to demonstrate kind acts (offering to help and inviting to join). Please keep practicing at home with your child and continue the conversation. Thank you!

-In math we played *Build It: Teen Numbers* and completed *Build It Quick Images*. We played variations of the addition games *Roll and Record* and *Five-in-a-Row* with a number cube and a dot cube to encourage the strategy of counting on. We practiced choral counting backwards

(remember the goal in first grade is to be able to count backwards from 30) and revisited the subtraction games *Roll and Record Subtraction* and *Five-in-a-Row Subtraction*. We practiced using the vocabulary and symbols (greater than  $>$ , less than  $<$  and, equal to  $=$ ) to compare numbers.

-In science we went on a light source hunt outdoors and through the school building. We found many light sources (e.g. the sun, projector, skylights, computer screens, etc.). Then we learned the word *surface* and discovered by experimenting with flashlights that we can make a surface brighter by shining a light on it. We will be focusing on how to make shadows next week.

-We read with our reading buddies this week!

-On Wednesday morning, Deepak Bhandary came in as a special holiday guest reader. He read a book and taught the class about Diwali. Thank you!

**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