

1-DG Update

December 1, 2023

Reminders:

December 4: Author Visit - Jerry Pallotta (Creative Arts and Sciences event)

December 25-January 1: No School, Year End Vacation

Highlights of our week

-This week we focused on words with the -ot chunk (otter, Scotland, knot).

-We learned the poem *December Celebrations*.

-In *Foundations* we practiced the trick words *who, what, when, where, there, and here*. We noticed that many of the question words that start with the /w/ sound are spelled with a wh. We practiced these and other previously learned trick words with a "Rainbow Write" activity. In this activity the students write the word once with a colored pencil, then trace it again with a different color and then repeat one more time. We also continued our work with words that have a base word and suffix s. We have done a lot of vocabulary work with these words.

-During read aloud we started the sixth (most recently published) Dory Fantasmagory Can't Live Without You, by Abby Hanlon.

-In reading workshop, we learned that while reading, if you try a vowel sound one way and it doesn't work, you can try it another way. We practiced reading words using the long and short vowel sound to think about which one makes sense. We read many sentences and each student has a "Word File" where they are collecting words where the vowel makes an unexpected sound (e.g. bread, give, etc.). We also learned that we should not give up when we are stuck on a tough word. I modeled how to take a step back, take a deep breath and try again using our phonics knowledge and thinking about what makes sense to help us solve tricky words. We practiced while reading the book Tiny and the Big Wave, by Annette Smith.

-This week we read a third book about guinea pigs. We read Guinea Pigs, by Clive Harper and Beverly Randell. We quickly discovered that this book is nonfiction and we learned about the table of contents, headings, labels, diagrams and the index. We charted the facts we learned about guinea pigs, including page numbers indicating where we learned those facts in the book, on our chart comparing books from the three genres (fiction, realistic fiction and nonfiction). On Friday, each first grader picked a topic they know a lot about (e.g. dogs, soccer, baking, etc.) and wrote a nonfiction pre-assessment piece of writing.

-In math, we played *Dot Addition*, practiced place value skills, and took an assessment focusing on "How Many of Each?" problems. For example, *I have 11 Fruits. Some are apples and some are bananas. How many of each could I have?* The students are getting very skilled at finding all of the combinations and using a T chart to show their work. Please ask you child to show you how to use a T chart. We also practiced solving story problems with three addends.

-In science we watched a short video of a shadow puppet show featuring the story of the Three Little Pigs. This was inspiration as each first grader is creating their own shadow puppet scene.

This week we used materials to create dark shadows on our scenes. Please ask your child what they made and which material they used.

-On Friday afternoon, our school counselor Karalyn Kickham, came in to teach the third bullying lesson.

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