

1-DG Update

December 22, 2023

Reminders:

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

January 3: Vacation Literacy challenge due

January 15: No School - MLK day

January 26: Report Cards available

Note: Each first grader brought home a Ziploc bag filled with books and a Winter Vacation Literacy BINGO challenge. Completing five squares in a row earns your child a prize. Feel free to complete more than five challenges. Please date and have an adult initial each completed square. Please return all non-photocopied books in the Ziploc bag and the BINGO sheet to school after vacation. Your child can keep the photocopied books. Thanks!

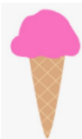


Highlights of our week

-This week we built words with the -et chunk, such as get, letter, spaghetti and trumpet. The first graders loved finding many -et words in the book Nanette's Baguette, by Mo Willems!

-As a class we read the book Bet You Can't, by Penny Dale. This book helped us learn to identify contractions such as: let's, wasn't, I'm, etc.

-Our *Fundations* lessons focused on four new welded sounds: ank, ink, onk, unk. We practiced adding the suffix s to welded sounds (e.g. kings, rinks). Our new trick words are: very, too, also.

-In reading workshop, we learned that nonfiction readers are curious about words. We practiced thinking about the meaning of new words while reading the book Meet the Snake. Then we learned that readers need to retell to make sure they understand their books. At the end of a book, readers think, "What have I learned about this topic?" Then, they look back in the book and use the text to retell all that the book taught them. We practiced retelling by touching our finger to our palm to name the topic and then touch each finger to retell the details and say why or how that information is important.

Did I RETELL well?		
		
I named the topic or I gave a detail from the book.	I named the topic and gave <u>some</u> <u>examples</u> from the book (+2).	I named the topic, gave +2 examples from the book and said <u>why</u> or <u>how</u> the information is <u>important</u> .



Then we learned that when people are really curious and want to learn more about something, they can use all they know about nonfiction reading to learn not only from books, but from the

world around them. We watched a Molly of Denali Beekeeping video and then practiced retelling all of the important information we learned from the video.

-We read the informational book Kwanzaa, all by David Marx to learn more about this holiday.

-Our writing workshop lessons focused on strategies to write nonfiction books. Each first grader has been working on writing a nonfiction book about a topic of his or her choice. This week's lessons focused on using size, shape and color words to make our writing more descriptive. Students learned how to make a comparison, such as: *the shark's teeth are as sharp as a knife*.

-In math we created counting strips as a challenge to write numbers correctly as high as we can. At this point in their development, many first graders attempt to write the number 103 as 1003, writing the 100 and then adding a number to the end. To correct this misunderstanding, we explored place value and practiced writing three-digit numbers correctly. We played the game *Missing Numbers*. Mrs. Carr and I also met individually with students to complete the *Numeracy Screening*.

-During our SEL lesson we revisited the topic of bullying with the book Big Red and the Little Bitty Wolf, by Jeanie Fraz Ransom. We learned that sometimes strategies to stop a bully from bothering you work and sometimes they don't, but it is always important to tell a grown up what is going on. Earlier in the week, Ms. Petrowsky came in to have a serious discussion with the class about expected behaviors and the potential for consequences if students are not making good choices. Please continue this conversation at home. Thank you!

-In science we did some testing, revising and sharing of our puppet show scenes. We glued our stencils onto clear plastic to fulfill our design goals of creating a scene with bright, medium-bright and dark areas. Then we filled out a planning sheet with ideas of how to create two puppet characters and a written script of what the two characters will say to each other in our puppet shows. After vacation we will make our puppets and start creating sound effects as we move into the second part of the unit which focuses on sound.

-The first graders were so excited to share books with each other during our book swap! Thanks for your support!

-On Monday morning the Carley family came in as holiday guest readers. They read The Grinch, by Dr. Seuss. The Grinch even made a special appearance! On Friday morning, Melissa Lacy read The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg. Check out the google photo folder and thank you!

-The first graders did a wonderful job reciting the Pledge of Allegiance over the loudspeaker during morning announcements this week!

-We enjoyed pajama/comfy cozy day on Friday! See google photo folder!

Have a great vacation!

-Dara Gaul