

1-DG Update

December 8, 2023

Reminders:

December 13: Merritt Moore Assembly (9:00) and Winter Concert (11:00)

December 14: Picture Retake Day

December 18: Wrapped Secret Buddy Book Swap books due

December 18-22: Pledge of Allegiance on Morning Announcements

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

January 15: No School - MLK day

January 26: Report Cards available

Note: Information about our secret buddy book swap went home today in your child's Home/School folder. The directions are below in case they get misplaced. This is the only written homework next week (I will still send books home to read every night).
Happy Hanukkah!

In 1DG, we will be celebrating the spirit of the season by having a Secret Buddy Book Swap. The children completed a reading interest survey. Each child is bringing home the name and survey of someone in 1DG to select a book from home to regift/up-cycle/pass along for some fun vacation reading. Please use this survey as a guide for choosing a book to give and remind your child to keep who they have a secret. **Please send wrapped books in by Monday, December 18.** Please do not purchase a book for this project. If you do not have a book to pass along from home, please let me know and I will let your child select a book from my collection. The Wellesley Book Swap section at the Recycling Center is another great resource if you do not have a book you are comfortable passing along. As a class we discussed using the survey to select a book the buddy might truly be interested in. We also discussed passing along a book that is in good shape and age appropriate (it would not be fair to pass along a younger sibling's book). **We will swap the books on December 21.** If your child will be absent on that day, please let me know and we will see what arrangements can be made ahead of time. On the 21st, we will talk about how to accept a gift graciously, even if it is something you already own or were not expecting. Thanks in advance for participating! The first graders are very excited!

Highlights of our week

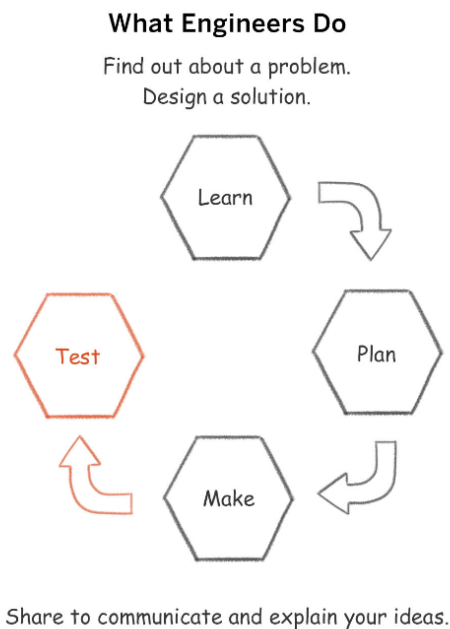
- This week we focused on short u and the uck chunk. We built words such as **luck**, **buckle**, and **stuck**.
- In *Foundations* we continued practicing the trick words *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *there*, and *here*. We also continued learning about words with a base word and suffix s.
- In reading workshop we learned how to zoom in and out while reading to make sure we stop and think about the story as we read. We practiced pausing to make a prediction while reading the book *Tiny and the Big Wave*. Then we practiced some word solving strategies with the book *Cupcake*. We learned how to break a word in half between double consonants (e.g. kitten and

bottom) to help us decode the word. After that we focused on compound words and words with suffix endings (s, ed, ing). Finally, we practiced the important skill of retelling using these two books.

-In writing workshop, we started our new informational unit. Each first grader wrote about a topic of his or her choice for a pre-assessment. We then read a book called The Great White Shark where we identified important features of informational books (e.g. headings, labels, photographs, diagrams, captions, bold words, maps, contents, etc.). We are going to work hard on adding lots of facts to our writing, while also trying out some of these informational features.

-In math we worked on adding three addends in both story problems and games. We played the games *Roll and Record with Three Dice* and *Five-in-a-Row with Three Dice*. We also did a new activity called "Today's Number." In this activity students first determine the number I have selected by asking questions such as "Is it greater than 5?" Once they have figured out the number, the first graders record many equations (using addition and subtraction) that equal that number. We have been solving number strings by looking for combinations of ten. The first graders enjoyed finding different ways to figure out how many animals went on a journey in the book Rooster's Off to See the World, by Eric Carle. Ask your first grader how they would solve the problem $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

-In science we learned that engineers:



We learned about cause and effect, and each first grader wrote two sentences explaining how the material they used last week to create part of their shadow puppet scene created a dark shadow (e.g. *The cardboard blocks light from the flashlight, so the surface looks dark.*). We read the book Rosie Revere, Engineer, by Andrea Beaty.

-During our SEL lessons this week we read two books that illustrated the importance of kindness. The books were Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon, by Patty Lovell and The Invisible Boy, by Trudy Ludwig.

- Karalyn Kickham came in for our fourth and final bullying lesson. I put a sheet explaining this lesson in your child's Home/School folder.
- On Monday morning we had a class discussion and slide show about Sprague School's safety drills. Then on Tuesday afternoon we walked to our two rally points.
- The first graders were so lucky and excited to meet author Jerry Pallotta on Monday! Thank you to Creative Arts and Sciences for bringing Jerry Pallotta to Sprague AND for giving each first grader a personalized signed copy of one of his "Who Would Win?" books! Make sure to check out photos in the google folder and check your child's Home/School folder for his or her special book.
- We read with our reading buddies on Wednesday morning.
- We read the book The Chanukkah Guest, by Eric A. Kimmel. The first graders enjoyed playing the dreidel game (see google folder for photos). Each first grader brought home a dreidel to keep and play with at home.
- We had a special holiday guest reader on Friday morning! Nicole Katz read Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah, by Jamie Korngold. 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