

1-DG Update

February 16, 2024

Reminders:

February 19-23: February vacation week

March 8: RSVP for Math IN

March 13: Math IN 8:30a.m.-8:55a.m.

March 27, April 2 and 3: Spring conferences

Note: Each first grader brought home a bag of books and a February vacation reading challenge. Please return the books and challenge after vacation for a prize!

Highlights of our week

-We focused on the -ight chunk and built words such as **night**, **flight** and **flashlight**.

-We learned the poem "Mighty Knight."

-In *Foundations* we learned about vowel teams. A vowel team is two vowels together that make just one sound. We learned keywords to help us remember the sounds of the vowels teams we focused on this week. We learned ai-bait; ay-play; ee-jeep; ea-eat; ey-key; oi-coin; and oy-boy. New trick words this week were: *see*, *between* and *each*.

-In reading workshop, we focused on how readers check to make sure they are back on track after noticing and fixing a "clunk" (error in their reading). Readers ask themselves, "Does this make sense?" or "What's happening and why?" or "What does that mean?" to check and make sure that they are back on track. We also learned how reading partners can help and support each other when solving clunks without giving away the answer. We practiced this while partner reading the book Rasheed at the Beach. Each first grader brought home a copy of this book to read to you over vacation.

-We learned about Presidents' Day and read the books Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers, by Karen Winnick and George Washington's Teeth, by Deborah Chandra and Madeleine Comora. The first graders enjoyed doing research about these two presidents on the *PebbleGo* database. This class loves learning about historical figures and events! I encourage you to nurture this interest with a trip to the library or some museums over vacation!

-In honor of Valentine's Day, we read Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli and discussed why this book is realistic fiction. We also exchanged valentines!

-In math we focused on equivalent expressions ($7+6 = 10+3$); solved Story Problems; and played the games *Five-in-a-Row with 3 cards* and *Five-in-a-Row Subtraction with 3 cubes*; and *Ten Plus*. We found that our work with combinations of ten really helps us solve Story Problems such as "Sam saw 2 ducks flying in the air. He saw 8 ducks in the grass and 5 more ducks in the pond. How many ducks did Sam see?" I have been so encouraged and excited when I see the first graders solving a problem like this quickly and efficiently by first finding a ten and then adding on! We also worked hard on practicing and applying our doubles facts to our problem solving. Please make sure your child knows all of the combinations of 10 and doubles facts quickly. Thank you!

-We made a card saying farewell to the Hunnewell students and presented it at an assembly on Wednesday morning. We also participated in a "clap out" on Friday afternoon.

-We attended a wonderful shadow puppet show called "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" by John and Megan Regan of CactusHead Puppets on Friday afternoon. Their show was not only entertaining, but very informative! After they performed, they showed the first graders the puppets; explained how they were made; and explained the sound effects. I added photos to the google drive folder. Thank you so much to the Creative Arts committee for bringing this program to Sprague!

I hope everyone has a wonderful February vacation!

-Dara Gaul