

1-DG Update

March 1, 2024

Reminders:

March 8: RSVP for Math IN

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

March 27, April 2 and 3: Spring conferences

March 29: Good Friday - No School

Highlights of our week

-We learned about vowel combinations that make one long sound. This week we focused on *ea*, *ee* and *oa* (for example: *beach*, *green* and *coat*). A little rhyme that helps us remember the sound these vowel combinations make is, "When two vowels are walking, the first does the talking." We realize that this doesn't always work, for example the word *bread*.

-In *Foundations*, we started a new unit that focuses on blending and segmenting up to five sounds in a closed syllable. We learned how to tap these words by starting with our thumb and tapping each finger on the table or our leg. We also learned the keywords and sounds of some vowel teams that we see in our reading. We learned *oi* - coin; *oy* - boy; *oa* - boat; *oe* - toe; *ow* - snow; *ow* - plow; *ou* - trout; *ou* - soup. Our new trick words are: *any* and *many*.

-We learned the poem "How to Talk to Your Snowman."

-We learned about homophones (words that sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings) while reading the book Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones, by Gene Barretta.

-In reading workshop, we continued our comprehension work. We learned that readers keep the story in their mind while reading. They think about: *Who is in this part?* *Where are they?* and *What's happening?* We practiced making a movie in our mind to help us envision what is happening on each page. We practiced this with the book The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story, by Tina Cho. This is a book about a tradition of women diving deep into the sea (without breathing devices!) to find delicacies such as sea urchins to sell at markets. This tradition has been passed down for many years through the women of South Korea. We also watched a short video called "The 80-Year-Old Women Divers of Jeju" to help us learn more about this topic. Then we learned that readers read more and work hard to understand what they are reading. We read some of the nonfiction book The Big Book of the Blue, by Yuval Zommer to learn about the creatures the Haenyeo encounter in the ocean. We learned how we can move our bodies and act out how fish, seahorses and eels swim to help us learn new vocabulary words. All week we also spent a lot of time working with vowel teams and learned how to try the vowel sound several ways to figure out what makes sense when reading words like: *break*, *heavy*, *instead*.

-For the next two weeks, we will do a mini-unit on trickster tales from around the world. On Friday we learned about the characteristics of a trickster tale and read the book Zomo the Rabbt: A Trickster Tale from West Africa, by Gerald McDermott. We focused on cause and effect and practiced retelling this story. We can't wait to learn about a very famous trickster (the leprechaun!) in the next couple of weeks for St. Patrick's Day!

-During writing workshop, we finished up our community helper trading cards. The first graders will teach each other about their community helpers while sharing these trading cards on Monday.

-In math we did many *Quick Images* with Tens Frames. We played *Dot Addition*, *Five-in-a-Row with Three cards*, *Five-in-a-Row Subtraction with Three Dice*, *Today's Number*, and solved subtraction story problems.

-Our SEL *Second Step* lesson focused on helping students identify problems caused by accidents and then demonstrate an appropriate response. We learned that sometimes a problem is caused by an accident-something we didn't mean to do, but it can make someone feel upset. When we do something that makes someone feel upset, it's important to apologize to show that we care. When we cause an accident, we can say, "I'm sorry. It was an accident." It's also kind to ask, "Are you okay? How can I help?" Please continue this conversation at home.

-In science we finished our unit on Light and Sound! The first graders presented their puppet shows in small groups (see google folder for photos). Each student was responsible for presenting a shadow puppet scene with a bright, medium-bright and dark area. They needed to have two puppets, a story and a sound effect. They were very excited to turn the lights out and share their work!

Have a great weekend!

-Dara Gaul