1-DG Update
March 15, 2024

<u>Reminders:</u>
March 22: Parent Homework – First Grade Reflection due
March 27, April 2 and 3: Spring conferences
March 29: Good Friday – No School
April 15-19: April vacation

Highlights of our week
-We learned about words with **ou** and **ow**, such as **out** and **owl**. To help us remember the sounds that **ou** and **ow** can make we think of the visual of band-aids that you would put on after you hurt yourself and say either **Ouch**! or **Ow**!
-We went on an ou/ow word hunt and learned the poem "Brown Owl."
-We also learned a poem called "Leprechaun."
-The first graders took a spelling assessment in preparation for parent teacher conferences.
-In *Fundations* we reviewed the concept of a three-letter blend (e.g. strap); learned how to add a suffix s to a five sound baseword (e.g. clumps); we learned about vowel teams (ue as in blue, ue as in rescue, ew as in chew, au as in August; and aw as in saw); we learned how to add the suffixes –ed and –ing to basewords (e.g rented and renting); and we learned that when –ing is added to an action word it means it is happening now, while adding the –ed suffix means that it already happened.
-In reading workshop we continued our mini-unit on trickster tales. We read <u>Mouse Deer Escapes</u>, by Beverly Randell; <u>Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock</u> and <u>Anansi Goes Fishing</u>, both by Eric Kimmel; <u>The Gingerbread Man and the Leprechaun Loose at School</u>, by Laura Murray; <u>Clever Tom and the Leprechaun</u>, by Linda Shute and <u>My Lucky Day</u>, by Keiko Kasza. After reading the book <u>My Lucky Day</u> the first graders had the job of deciding whether or not this book is a trickster tale. They had to use evidence from the book to back up their opinion. We also learned a poem about Anansi. The first graders enjoyed this trickster tale unit!
-In writing workshop, we are working on a shared piece of writing for our first opinion writing assignment. The class is writing about why Sprague School is the best school. We learned how to hook our readers in with a question; clearly state our opinion at the beginning of our writing; and give many reasons. Creating a piece of writing together gives the first graders a lot of confidence. I highly recommend writing together with your child to build their stamina and skills.
-In math we finished up our unit focusing on missing part stories. We solved story problems; practiced solving fact family problems; played *The Penny Jar Game*; took an end of unit assessment; and wrote our own story problems. The first graders also worked on a fun St. Patrick's Day packet which they have the option of finishing at home if they want to. Next week will start a new unit on gathering, representing and interpreting data.
-Our *Second Step* SEL lesson focused on how to ask for what you need to help solve a problem. We learned the importance of using the words "Can you, please?" or "Could you, please?"

-Our social studies lessons this week focused on being a good citizen. We researched vocabulary words such as respect, responsibility, volunteering, patriotism, etc. Each first grader taught the class about the words they researched. Then the first graders completed a writing activity where they wrote about how they can be a good citizen at home, school and in their community.

-We started a new round of WIN (What I Need) activities and groups this week. Please ask your child which group they are in and what they are working on in that group.

-We attended an exciting all school assembly on Wednesday gearing up for the solar eclipse scheduled for April 8. Lisa Fox (elementary science coordinator) and Ms. Flitsch taught the students about the eclipse and let everyone know that each child will be receiving their own pair of special solar glasses for the event!

-Thank you to everyone who attended our first grade Math In morning! The first graders loved playing math games with you! See google photo folder for photos. I will attach a "Family Math Fun" sheet to this newsletter.

Have a great weekend!

-Dara Gaul