

1-DG Update

March 8, 2024

Reminders:

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

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

-This week we focused on **ai**, **ay**, and **ui** vowel combinations (Two Vowels Walking). We built words such as *Maine*, *day*, and *fruit*.

-In *Foundations* we learned how some words have a three letter blend, e.g. *strap* and learned how to add a suffix *s* to a five sound baseword (e.g. *clumps*). Our new trick words are: *how*, *now* and *down*.

-In reading workshop we continued our mini-unit on trickster tales. We read *Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India*, by Gerald McDermott; *Tail of a Tale*, by Judit Bodner; *One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree*, by Daniel Bernstrom; *Hello House!*, by Linda Hayward; and *The Mouse-deer and the Crocodiles*, by Beverly Randell. The first graders love these stories! Please ask your child to describe some characteristics of a trickster tale.

-In writing workshop we started our opinion writing unit. We read the book *I Wanna Iguana*, by Karen Kaufman Orloff and realized when share your opinion and want to persuade someone to agree with you, you need to give lots of reasons. Each first grader then picked a topic they know a lot about (e.g. *Golden Retrievers are the best dogs* or *soccer is the best sport*, etc.) and wrote a pre-assessment piece of writing. Ask your first grader what he or she wrote about! Then we dove into some work making sure all of the first graders understand the difference between facts and opinions. We read the book *Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots*, by Michael Rex. We sorted sentences and debated whether some were facts or opinions. There was definitely some debate about the sentence: *Candy is delicious*.

-In math this week we solved Story Problems; worked with fact families; practiced writing equivalent expressions; worked on more *True or False?* problems; and found ways to make equations true. We also focused on solving Penny Jar problems. These are missing part problems, e.g. *I had 6 pennies in my jar. I added some more pennies to the jar. Now I have 8 pennies. How many pennies did I add?* We also played *The Penny Jar* game, which involved turning over two number cards and determining whether addition or subtraction was necessary to solve for the missing part.

-We attended an assembly on Wednesday called "Bash the Trash." Ask your first grader about it!

-Friday was National SEL day. The first graders drew and wrote about kindness on paper hearts. These hearts will be on display on the hallway bulletin board by the two first grade classrooms. Make sure to check in out if you are attending our Math IN event on Wednesday!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead this weekend!

-Dara Gaul