

1-DG Update

April 12, 2024

Reminders:

April 15-19: April vacation

April 24: Vacation Reading Challenge due

May 8: Wingmasters program

May 22: Memorial Day Assembly at 11:25 a.m.

May 27: No School - Memorial Day

May 29: A-CAT-emy Awards at 11:15 a.m.

May 31: Field Day

June 4: Field Day Rain Date

June 10: Writing Celebration in the classroom at 8:45 a.m. (Families invited!)

June 12: Wednesday FULL Day

June 13: Last Day of School - $\frac{1}{2}$ Day, Assembly at 9:30 a.m. - Move Up/On after the assembly

Note:

-Each child brought home a bag of books with a copy of the April Vacation Reading Challenge. The challenge is due by Wednesday, April 24 to win a prize! Note: Each student is bringing home a Cynthia Rylant book of his or her choice over vacation to read as part of the reading challenge. We have been reading Cynthia Rylant books to help us prepare to write our own realistic fiction series after vacation.

Highlights of our week

-We focused on the letter y this week. We learned that when the letter y is at the end of a word it acts like a vowel making either the i sound (my, by, try) or the e sound (funny, silly, happy). When a word has "ay" it makes the long a sound.

-We learned the poem "French Fries."

-In spelling we focused on changing the "y" to "i" and adding the suffix -es or -ed to words, e.g. try-tries-tried.

-In *Foundations* we continued our work with words with the vowel-consonant-e syllable type and took an end of unit 11 assessment on Friday morning.

-In reading workshop, we focused on learning about characters in books. We learned that readers care about what a character says and does, and also what the character likes and dislikes. We paid attention to the clues authors give us about how characters are feeling. We closely examined the actions, words and expressions of the characters in the book Swashby and Sea, by Beth Ferry. We also learned that readers pay attention to dialogue and figure out who's talking as they read. The first graders enjoyed reading a recipe from our lion friend Rasheed as they identified words with the soft c and g. Finally, we used the book Soojin Stands Out, by Elizabeth Franco to practice reading like a star, by scooping up words, using different voices for punctuation, showing characters' feelings, and using a clear, loud voice.

-In writing workshop, we continued our opinion writing unit by writing book reviews. We watched two Reading Rainbow clips of students sharing book reviews. Then the students wrote their own book reviews. We are wrapping up our opinion writing unit and will start writing our realistic fiction series after vacation. To help prepare us for that work, we read more first books in a series such as Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa, by Erica Silverman; Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same!, by Grace Lin; and Iris and Walter, by Elissa Haden Guest. We are noticing how authors introduce characters and setting in their first books in a series.

-In math we started Unit 7 which focuses on using number patterns to help solve problems involving multiple pairs of hands, eyes, etc. The goal is for the first graders to start solving problems like "How many hands do six children have?" by seeing and recording the number pattern 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 vs. having to draw each child and count the hands by ones to arrive at the answer 12. We also worked on finding more efficient (and accurate!) ways to count groups of numbers. We learned how to organize information into tables to help us identify patterns in numbers. We organized unifix cubes into groups of tens and ones to help us count quickly and correctly.

-Rabbits from Land's Sake farm visited our classroom on Friday afternoon! Thank you to the Sprague PTO Creative Arts and Sciences for bringing this program to our classroom.

-The first graders were so excited to experience the eclipse on Monday!

Have a great vacation!

-Dara Gaul