

1-DG Update

April 26, 2024

Reminders:

May 1: Nature Walk with Lisa Moore

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

Highlights of our week

-We focused on words with the -ain chunk, such as stain, explain and raindrop.

-We learned the poem "Train to Spain."

-In *Foundations* we started Unit 12. We focused on reading and spelling two syllable words with two closed syllables (catnip, napkin, bathtub, etc.). Our new trick words are: *people* and *month*.

-Our reading workshop lessons this week focused on learning about the characters in the books we read. We practiced studying characters to figure why they act in the ways they do. We compared characters from different books. We learned that characters often learn life lessons that can help us think about our own lives. We identified the life lessons in the book Mr. Putter and Tabby Clear the Decks, by Cynthia Rylant. Then the first graders practiced identifying and writing life lessons from their Expert Books. We also practiced our retelling skills. We practiced using the characters' names and identifying the problem and solution. On Seesaw, the students were able to record themselves reading and then retelling the book Mr. Putter and Tabby Turn the Page, by Cynthia Rylant.

-In writing workshop, we are working on writing a realistic fiction series. Each first grader imagined a character about the same age as they are, gave that character a name and introduced that character in Book One of his or her series. In addition to introducing the character, the first graders worked on coming up with an adventure with a problem and solution. The first graders will be writing several books featuring the same characters. These books will be placed in a special boxed set and sent home at the end of the year. During our lessons this week, we learned that readers like it when books have a satisfying ending. Satisfying endings often have a solution to the problem introduced earlier in the story. We read Mr. Putter and Tabby Run the Race, by Cynthia Rylant and identified the problem, solution and satisfying ending of this story. We also focused on adding dialogue to our series stories. We made a chart featuring words to use instead of "said" that shows how a character sounds, e.g. *whispered, squealed, screamed, cried, etc.*

-In math we worked with adding and subtracting multiples of ten. We played the games *Build It*, *How Many Now? with Cubes*, and *How Many Now? with Ten Frames cards*.

-After observing that we did in fact grow new plants from old plants, our life science unit has now shifted to animals! This week we learned what is special about animal senses; we learned what animals need; and why animals camouflage. The first graders enjoyed coloring in paper moths to "camouflage" all over the classroom! We also went outside for our spring observation of the tree we have been observing all year. The tree is covered in beautiful blossoms!

-The first graders were excited to head out to the edge of the playground during snack time on Thursday morning to watch the middle school students run a mini-marathon!

-During Morning Meeting, we tried out some fun new greetings! In one greeting, the students had a "snowball fight" where each student wrote their name on a piece of paper, crumpled it up, threw it across the rug where someone picked it up and then greeted each other. We also did a T-Rex greeting where the students held their hands up with their elbows close to their sides like a T-Rex and then walked around the room shaking hands and greeting each other! It was super silly!

-We had two birthday guest readers this week! Dana and Ellen Conti came in on Tuesday morning. They read the book Press Start! Super Rabbit Boy vs. Super Rabbit Boss!, by Thomas Flintham. Paulina Valdez Franco came in on Wednesday morning. She read the book Every Color of Light, by Hiroshi Osada. Thank you!

-Dara Gaul