

# 1-DG Update

## April 5, 2024

### Reminders:

April 8: Eclipse event

April 12: Books with Bunnies

April 15-19: April vacation

May 8: Wingmasters program

**Thank you all for meeting with me during parent/teacher conferences the past couple of weeks. I enjoyed discussing your child's progress with you!**

### Highlights of our week

-This week we focused on words with oo that sound like book. Some of the words we came up with include: look, football, and cookie.

-We added the poem "A Good Book" to our Poetry Journals.

-As a class we read the book Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon!, by Pat Cummings. We highlighted many "oo" words from this book during an activity on Seesaw.

-In *Foundations* we continued our work with words with the vowel-consonant-e syllable type. We added suffix s to these words.

-In reading workshop, we started a new unit called "Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons." We learned that readers take a sneak peek (looking at the front and back cover, reading the blurb on the back and reading the table of contents) to find out *where* the characters will go and *what* they will do. We practiced taking a sneak peek with the book Bradford Street Buddies: Backyard Camp-Out, by Jerdine Nolen. Then we practiced using the storyline to make predictions. We learned how to mark important parts of the book with sticky notes to help us retell after reading. Please ask your child to use these sticky notes to retell their Expert Books to you at home this weekend. Please remove the sticky notes before returning the book on Monday. Thank you! We focused on words with -ore and -air. Finally, we learned that readers revisit books to notice more.

-In writing workshop, we read the book Rufus Goes to School, by Kim T. Griswell. Rufus is a little pig who wants to go to school. Rufus had to come up with many convincing reasons and be prepared to respond to disagreement. We practiced these skills in our writing. We read a review of the game *Rush Hour*. We learned that adding a personal story can make our opinion writing more memorable and powerful. Next week we will write book reviews and take a post-assessment.

-We finished up Unit 6 which focused on surveys and data. The students asked survey questions with three categories, such as: *Which do you like best water, milk or juice?*

-Our *Second Step* SEL lesson focused on using all we have learned about solving problems in a variety of scenarios. The first graders did a great job using respectful language when solving problems.

-In science we are attempting to grow a new plant from an old plant. We planted cuttings from potatoes, carrots and onions. We learned about variation and compared images of dogs, flowers, fish, etc. We learned that a process called photosynthesis helps the leaves of a plant make food. We compared the leaves of a variety of plants. We also observed that after we "mowed" our alfalfa and grass lawns, the alfalfa struggled to grow back without the leaves making food for the plant, while the blades of grass are leaves and were able to regrow!

-We had an assembly on Wednesday morning gearing up for the Great Northern Eclipse.

-The first graders loved April Fools Day! Did they offer you a brownie when they got home on Friday?

-Please let me know if your child will be missing any school days before or after April vacation.  
Thank you!

-Dara Gaul