



First Grade News



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Reading

This week in reading, first graders received their Word Detective badges! Students practiced reading words in a “snap” and scooping up all the words they knew to make their reading smooth. First graders then practiced how to make an unknown word, a “snap” word by studying each sound carefully and writing it. Finally, readers learned that word detectives have to look closely for an e at the end of a word. That silent e is a clue. It tells you to try a long vowel sound in a word.”



Social Studies

This week we learned about St. Nicholas Day and Hanukkah. St. Nicholas Day was celebrated Dec. 6th. First graders learned that St. Nicholas Day is a tradition celebrated in the Netherlands. Children place their boots outside for St. Nicholas to fill with goodies. First graders learned how Hanukkah lasts for eight nights and one candle is lit on the menorah each night. Many first graders had fun sharing how they sometimes play with dreidels or eat latkes to celebrate the holiday in their family.



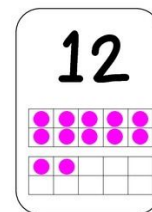
Foundations

In Foundations this week, students learned and practiced writing the suffix “s” with action words. For example: shuts, runs, digs. Students continued to practice underlining the base word and circling the suffix. First graders also learned three new trick words: who, what and when. We have learned 33 new trick words so far this year! The trick words are very important for students to be able to read “in a snap” because they see them frequently in the books they read. Students also need to know how to spell these words and are expected to spell them correctly when writing them in their journals or during Writer’s Workshop. In a few short weeks we will be assessing students on all of our trick words learned.



Math

This week students continued exploring the structure of the base-ten system and the idea of place value as they continued to work with teen numbers. Students discussed that a new unit, a ten, is composed of 10 ones, and that teen numbers are composed of 1 unit of ten plus some number of ones. Double 10-frames are used here as they encourage students to see this structure. Students worked only with expressions that do not require composing or decomposing a ten, for example, $13-2$ and $12+5$. Some students are noticing that the unit of ten doesn’t change and relate the sum to the adding or subtracting of ones. We also learned a variation on a new game, Shake and Spill Teen Numbers. The value of the difference between two numbers.



Writing

Over the next few weeks, first grade students are going to become poets. Students discussed that poetry is a type of writing that is an expression of feelings and ideas, often using a distinctive style or rhythm. This week students brainstormed ideas for their poems and began writing two different kinds of poems, list and acrostic poems. First graders are truly enjoying the creative writing time!



December 20th: Early Release (12:15 dismissal)

December 26th-January 1st: Winter Recess



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