



First Grade News



ISSUE 15

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Reading



This week, readers learned that if they try a vowel sound one way and it doesn't work, they should try it another way. Word detectives can try to read a word with a long vowel sound or a short vowel sound and think about which one makes sense. First graders also learned about "rule breakers" or words that don't follow the spelling pattern. For example, "have" doesn't follow the silent-e spelling pattern and "thread" doesn't follow the vowel team/long vowel spelling pattern. Finally readers were encouraged to pause to think about what's happening in the story. They were also reminded that imagining what might happen next is called making a "prediction."

Social Studies

We continued our study of the holidays this week, learning about Kwanzaa and New Years. We learned that Kwanzaa lasts for seven nights. Families light one candle on the Kinara each night and focus on a special guiding principle, such as faith, determination, or responsibility. On the sixth night they gather with family and friends for a special feast and eat special foods and on the seventh night, they exchange gifts. On New Year's, first graders learned that it is the first day of the new calendar year. Many people reflect on the past year and make goals for the new year. On New Year's Eve, many countries and towns celebrate with fireworks to ring in the new year. .

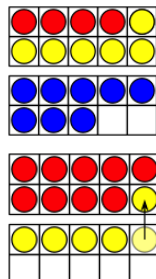


Hour of Code

In December, all of the first grade classes participated in the Hour of Code with Mrs. Fein! Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science. The Hour of Code began as a one-hour coding challenge to give students a fun first introduction to computer science and has become a global learning event, celebration, and awareness event. First grade students learned to program a Bee-Bot and a Dash robot, and play various coding games on their iPads!



Math



This week in Math first graders worked on addition within 20. Students explored the idea of composing and decomposing numbers to add up to three addends within 20. They made use of the base-ten structure and the "add in any order" property when adding, and discovered the usefulness of grouping numbers to make a sum of 10 (or a unit of ten). For instance, to find the value of $4+6+7$, they can rearrange the addends to group 4 and 6, which makes 10, and add the 7. Making a ten is also helpful when finding the sum of two addends. For example, to find the value of $9+5$, students can take 1 from the 5 and group it with the 9 to make 10, and then add the 4.

Winter Performance-SAVE THE DATE

First graders have been practicing many different winter themed songs in Music that we would love to perform for families in a special Winter Performance! Families are invited to join us in the Mitchell cafeteria on Friday January 26th at 8:45 a.m. We hope to see you there!



December 26th-January 1st: Winter Recess

January 10th: Early Release. 12:15 dismissal

January 15th: No School. MLK Jr. Day

January 24th: Early Release. 12:15 dismissal

January 26th: Winter Performance. 8:45 a.m.

We all wish you a restful break and a very Happy New Year! See you in 2024!





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