



First Grade News



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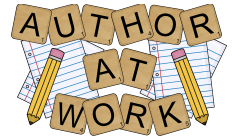
Reading

We began our first Reader's Workshop unit: "Building Good Reading Habits." We learned that readers develop a habit of taking a "sneak peek" by observing the cover and the first few pages of their book to get an idea of what the story might be about. Children also learned that when readers get stuck on a hard word, they use the letters to solve it. They put their fingers under the word and slide through the sounds. Finally, first graders worked on rereading their books to smooth out their reading.



Writing

First graders have begun the small moment unit! It's amazing to see all of the wonderful writing they are producing about special moments in their lives. First graders learned about the writing process authors follow when they write a story:



1. Think of an idea
2. Plan ("touch and tell" and sketch across the pages)
3. Write
4. Revise

After thinking of an idea, first graders are learning to apply a new strategy called "touch and tell." Before writing, first graders *touch* each page of their booklet and *tell* what they want to write on each. Following this, they create a pencil sketch on each page to match their ideas and then dive into writing. So many first graders are taking ownership of their writing and motivating themselves to engage in the writing process.

Social Studies

First Graders learned about Indigenous Peoples' Day this week. Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that honors Native American peoples. It is a celebration of their histories, traditions and cultures. This holiday is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October.



Fundations

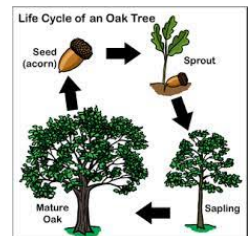
In Unit 2, students are learning how to blend and segment sounds in three-letter CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. Students used their fingers to help them decode unknown words with the "tapping out" strategy:



1. Start by touching the thumb and pointer finger together. Say the first (consonant) sound of the word.
2. Next, touch the thumb and middle finger together. Say the middle (vowel) sound.
3. Then touch the thumb and ring finger together. Say the last (consonant) sound.
4. Finally, use your thumb and pointer finger to "zip" the sounds together and say the word.

Science

All first grade classrooms went on a field trip to the Oaks of Eastman. On this trip, first graders acted out the lifecycle of an oak tree, went on a nature walk through the Eastman woods, searched for oak tree saplings, oak leaves and acorns, and cracked open acorns to discover what was inside. Students loved the hands-on experience!



October 9th: No School. Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 18th: Early Release Day (12:15 dismissal)



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