



# First Grade News



ISSUE 8

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## Reading

This week in reading, first graders learned to pay special attention to vowels and check to make sure they have the right sound. They also practiced reading the word slowly as they slid a finger under it and checked that all the letters look right. Finally, readers practiced how to reread their books when things get confusing and think, "what is going on in the book right now?" When reading fiction books it's important that you know what's happening with the characters. When you're reading a nonfiction book, you work to make sure the information makes sense.



## Social Studies



As part of our Pollyanna Racial Literacy curriculum, first graders were introduced to the book Swimmy, by Leo Lionni. Conversations centered around collaboration and

teamwork as well as the value that we each bring to our community. Students were given the opportunity to explore how our unique differences can be strengths as they help build our community. With teamwork, we can become stronger.

## Writing

In writing, first graders continued working on their small moment stories. We practiced "bringing the inside out" by adding feeling to our stories and using drama to bring our stories to life. We also worked on telling our story in "itsy bitsy" steps.



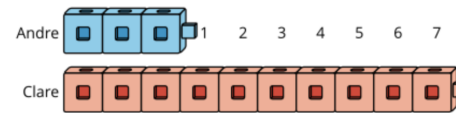
## Science

This week in Science we continued learning about plant life cycles. First graders explored a variety of seeds, and learned that seeds come in a variety of shapes and sizes. We also learned that a seed has all the important things a baby plant needs to grow.



## Math

This week students learned a new game called Capture Squares, where students rolled dice and determined the sum. They also were introduced to compare, difference unknown problems. Students began by considering how many to add to a quantity to make the two quantities equal, such as, "How many cubes do we need to add so that both towers have the same number of cubes?" Once they were familiar with this language, students answered "how many more" and "how many fewer"

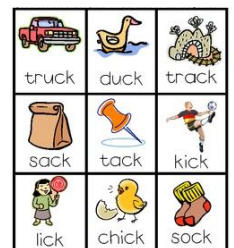


questions. For

example, "How many more cubes does Clare have than Andre?" Students may count the extra cubes in Clare's tower to find the answer. They may start at 3 and count up to 10 or start at 10 and count back to 3. Students analyze both addition ( $3+7=10$ ) and subtraction ( $10-3=7$ ) equations that can be used to represent the same problem.

## Fundations

First graders continued working on writing and reading words with digraphs (wh, ch, sh, th, ck) and also learned that ck comes right after a short vowel. First graders were digraph detectives, finding digraphs in their books, small moment stories, and around the classroom! We learned seven new trick words this week:



we, he, be, me, she



November 8th - Early Dismissal

November 11th - No School (Veteran's Day)

November 22nd-25th - Thanksgiving recess



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