

News from Room 104



A weekly newsletter from Mrs. Woodring

10/30/09

This Week's News

Reading

This week, we began working in our guided reading groups. It was fun to see the students fall into the routine of meeting and completing their independent tasks as well. Our readers are becoming so accustomed at using different strategies to figure out tricky words, it is thrilling to see them explaining this to their friends in our groups. With each new book, the students are adding more and more sight words to their repertoire. We also worked on counting syllables in words.

In Readers' Workshop this week, we focused on how good readers are thinking about the words they read as they go and using those words to paint a picture in their head to help them understand what is happening in the story. Each day this week, we listened to a new story or poem and worked hard to paint a picture in our head of what was happening and then we recorded our mental images on paper to share with the class. We noticed how not everyone's pictures were the same and decided this was because we all have different schema for the stories. The kids had a great time sharing and explaining what made them draw the picture they drew. We will work on making those mental images during their independent reading time next week and sharing what they did on their own.

Writing

This week we worked so hard on planning our stories out before we wrote them. We worked with partners to plan our stories aloud. The class partnered up and used one of our strategies from last week to share their writing ideas with their partner before they wrote. We also worked on writing some words without even thinking about their spelling, 'writing them in a snap.' We talked about how when we read, there are some words we don't need to sound out or even think about, we know them so quickly (like our sight words). Writers have words like that too, just like readers. The students worked on finding words they knew in a snap and we added some to our word wall. You will be happy to know that 'mom' and 'dad' are on that list! :)

Math

We continued to focus on grouping numbers by fives and counting on. The kids realized how much faster and easier it is to solve an equation by counting on from one number instead of counting by ones for both numbers in the equation. We also introduced nickels and pennies and talked about how a penny is like your finger (it is worth one) and a nickel is like your whole hand (it is worth five).

Spelling

This week, we introduced our new spelling words: you, that, & it. We worked with the word families -at and -it and noticed that words with only one vowel tend to make a short vowel sound.

Next Week's News

Reading

- Guided Reading Groups
- Characters, setting, problem & story events
- Visualizing

Writers' Workshop

- Zooming into small moments
- Adding feelings to our story endings
- Preparing for our celebration

Math

- Solving Addition Story Problems
- Grouping by 5 and counting on

Spelling

- Unit 5: it, that, you

Science

- Matter
- Magnets

Conferences

Report cards will be sent home on Monday, November 2. I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss all that your first grader is doing and how they are progressing.

Up Ahead

- 11/2-4: Conferences
- 11/2-6: Book Fair
- 11/5: School Assembly
- 11/13: Popcorn Day
- 11/25-29: Thanksgiving Break



Happy Halloween!
Sarah Woodring