

News from Room 104



A weekly newsletter from Mrs. Woodring

11/06/09

This Week's News

Reading

We had another great week of working in our guided reading groups. In our small groups, we read a book just above your child's independent reading level, retold the story using the Shape Go! Map and retelling boxes, and also worked on a decoding or fluency skill. When your child wasn't working their guided reading group, he or she worked independently on a centers packet. The students are working so well during this time, all our practice at the beginning of the year has paid off!

In Readers' Workshop this week, continued to work with visualizing. The students received their very own reading notebook to keep in their book boxes. We will use these notebooks all year for record our thoughts about reading. This week, we began the routine of writing the date and title of book/song that we are using to visualize and then recording the picture we made in our heads while reading/listening on the paper. We did a few as a group as we listened to the story *The Napping House*, and a few different songs. Then the students had a chance to try all on their own. They chose a song page from their book box and made their visualization entry in their notebook. It was fun to see them sharing and explaining them to their friends later. These notebooks are so great for tracking their thinking and growth throughout the year. I know they will love looking back through these later.

Writing

This week, we worked on making our stories ready to share. The first thing we worked on was making our endings as great as our stories. We outlawed, "And then I went home," as a way to end their stories. From now on, we are working on adding how we felt or what we were thinking in our heads to the end of our stories. This way our ending is still focusing on the small moment we wrote about. We then spent a day revising with our partner to make our celebration story the best it could be. We check to make sure our story made sense, we added more details, and we checked for best-try spelling. The next day we spent fancying up our writing with colored pencils and cover pages. We also prepared for our celebration by practicing a circle read and giving compliments to our friends' on their stories. I am so impressed at the growth that the first graders have made in their writing this month!!

Math

This week, we continued working on counting on. We focused on underlining the greater quantity and then counting on from there. We also introduced subtraction and how to draw a picture to explain the number story and write the number equation.

Spelling

We continued to work with the words: it, that, you. We played a game called Presto Chango where the kids write a word and have to change one letter each time to create a new word. We noticed lots of words that are spelled similarly.

Next Week's News

Reading

- Guided Reading Groups
- Characters, setting, problem & story events
- Visualizing
- Making Text-to-Self Connections

Writers' Workshop

- Writing Celebration
- New Unit: Writing for Readers

Math

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

Spelling

- Review Unit 6: it, that, you, is, in, a, and, the, to, of.
- Assessment

Science

- Magnets
- Matter Assessment

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on Monday, November 9. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I really enjoyed meeting with all of you to discuss your student's progress in first grade. Please let me know if you have any concerns when report cards come home!

Up Ahead

- 11/9: Report Cards sent home
- 11/13: Popcorn Day
- 11/25-29: Thanksgiving Break



Enjoy your weekend!
Sarah Woodring