

News from Room 1❄4



A weekly newsletter from Mrs. Woodring

12/10/10

This Week's News

Reading

During our guided reading time the kids worked hard to build their decoding, fluency, and retelling skills. We are working on helping our friends with tricky words without giving away the answers. First graders love to be teachers! We continued to work with contractions and also introduced compound words. The kids worked independently with ABC order, h-brothers (ch, sh, th, & wh), retelling stories, and our vocabulary strategy: How Well Do You Know a Word.

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 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.

Writing

This week, we focused mainly on working with partners to revise and edit our writing. The students handed their stories over to their partners to see if their partners could read their words. When a partner couldn't read a word, the two writers would work together to add more sounds to the word so that it was easier to read. They practiced using their Word Wall to check for words to be spelled correctly. I also gave the students the challenge of writing a complete story in one day...with still making it easy to read. The students did their best to meet that challenge and they have made so many gains in how easy their stories are for friends to read. It is amazing to look at what their stories used to look like and then now to see how much extra energy they put in to stretching out words, adding spaces, and making their writing neat.

Math

This week, we focused on solving missing number problems with unknown partners and totals with addition and subtraction. Yikes! The kids worked so hard! We practice with number stories and number equations and then took the unit test of Friday.

Spelling

This week, we worked with homophones, words that sound the same but are spelled differently and mean different things. We worked with to/two/too & for/four. The students have noticed other homophones in their reading that we added to our list as well (hi/high & write/right). We also worked with contractions.

Next Week's News

Reading

- Visualizing
- Making text-to-self connections

Writers' Workshop

- Revising by adding more sounds & punctuation
- Fixing & Fancying for a celebration

Math

- Working with unknown partner math mountains

Spelling

- Unit 8: are, on, was

Save the Date:

Our **Holiday Party** will take place Friday, December 17 from 2:45-2:30. We will not have a classroom gift exchange, but all parents are welcome to join us for the fun!



Up Ahead

- 12/18: Holiday Party
- 12/18-1/2: Winter Break
- 1/3: Back to school

Have a great, snowy weekend!

Sarah Woodring