



Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Dec. 1-5, 2014

Reading

In reading this week we learned that friendly letters are a way to communicate with the reader in a personal way through writing. We compared a letter to an email or a text message, which often replace letters today. We discussed why people write letters, and read several books in which authors have written in a letter format.

We learned that there are five parts to most friendly letters: greeting, date, body, closing, and signature. We practiced writing our own friendly letters and labeling the parts. After we were familiar with the parts of a letter, we explored different options for greetings and closings, and we recorded a few in our Thoughtful Logs. We

noticed that in our mentor texts, all the authors were using commas after the greeting and the closing. Our next piece of writing will be in the form of a letter, so we are spending quite a bit of time learning about this format before we write in it. Our Word Study lessons focused on adding -s and -es to make words plural, and vowel teams.

Writing

In connection with our reading mini-lessons, we have been exploring friendly letters in writing. We will be writing a persuasive letter for our next unit of study,

so we also took time to learn about the difference between a fact and an opinion. We practiced by writing a fact and an opinion about a particular topic to prepare

for our persuasive letters next week. We shared our writing in small groups and guessed whether each person's writing expressed a fact or an opinion.

Math

In math this week we reviewed telling time, counting money, and identifying even and odd numbers. The bulk of our learning though was on strategies for adding two digit numbers. We are learning to use the

partial sums method, in which the children add the tens, write the answer, add the ones, write the answer, and then add them together. I hope the communications I've been sending home along with the Family

Note on the Home Links have helped make this clear. I know it is different than how we learned to add! We ended our week by taking our Unit 4 Assessment. IPPs and tests will be sent home next week.

Upcoming Events:

12/12—EARLY RELEASE
12/17—Gifts due for gift exchange
12/22—Holiday Party
12/23-1/2—NO SCHOOL

Reminders:

- **If you have any gently used small toys or trinkets that you would like to donate, I will put them in my prize box at school! Thank you!**

Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: IMC, Art

Thursday: PE

Friday: PE

Science

In Science this week the children continued on their journey through the different habitats. This week they stopped at the desert. They talked about different plants and animals that make the desert their home, and even got to taste cactus jelly from the prickly pear cactus!

Social Studies

We have been taking time to explore each of the four main Native American tribes from North America. Before Thanksgiving break, we met the Woodland tribe. We learned how they used wigwams, papoose, and moccasins. This week we focused on the Southwest tribe, who used clay called adobe to build

homes called pueblos. We also learned about the fourth tribe: the Plains tribe. We discovered that they used the buffalo for a lot of things, including teepees, clothing, utensils, and even fly swatters! Next week we will shift our focus to the European settlers and their journey to North America.

Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week in Handwriting we reviewed and practiced the formation for the letters Cc, Ee, and Ff. We emphasized the "curve back" at the beginning of each letter and

recited the verbal pathways as we formed them.

Special Announcements

We are collecting food donations for the Food Pantry and toys for the Toy Drive. If you are interested in donating please send your items to school with your child!

Math Game of the Week:

"Memory Match"

www.everydaymathonline.com

In this 2-Player game the children try to match digital and analog clock times. The player with the most points at the end of the game wins!

Welcome Crystiana!

We are fortunate to have welcomed a new student to our class this week! Crystiana has transitioned well to our classroom and we have had fun getting to know her. Our class now has 23 eager and respectful learners!