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# Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Nov. 17-21, 2014

## Reading

In reading this week we learned how to determine important events from a narrative like the characters, setting, problem, and solution. Once we had this information, we were able to infer the author's message using clues from the text. We practiced doing this with two legends rewritten by Tomie dePaola, one of the featured

authors in our classroom library: *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* and *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*. We were able to make many text-to-world connections with these books and the content that we are learning in social studies. Our first word study lesson this week included vowel teams (ai, ee, ea, oa, ue), in which two vowels are together in

a word; the first one makes the long vowel sound and the second one is silent. The second word study lesson focused on synonyms. The children played synonym memory match with a partner to find pairs and then completed an independent activity at their seats. Please continue to read over the Thanksgiving break!

## Writing

This week in writing we learned how to edit our writing by using iPads to help correct our spelling. We also continued editing our drafts to add punctuation or

capitals. Finally, we completed the writing process by publishing our work, adding an illustration, and designing a cover page. Next week we will reflect on our writing

and share our personal narratives with our sharing groups.

## Math

This week in math we continued to practice strategies for adding 2-digit numbers. Our goal is for children to understand how they can combine tens and ones to reach the right sum. We have not taught them how to

"carry the 1" like you may remember from school. This will come later. We practiced making estimates to find the total cost of two items and then we also practiced finding the exact cost of two items. We also

Reviewed how to use the thermometer to measure temperature and compared the degrees Fahrenheit to the degrees Celsius. We have been using Part/Part/Total and Change Diagrams to help us solve problems.

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## Upcoming Events:

11/26-28—NO SCHOOL  
12/4—Barrie Winter Concert  
12/5—Barrie Spirit Day!

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## 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!

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## Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: PE

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

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## Science

This week in science the children began a habitat tour. They created a passport which they will use as they visit each habitat to record things they learned. They will start at the desert and continue through rainforest, tundra, forest, pond, and ocean.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies this week we reviewed the four major regions where Native American tribes lived. We practiced finding them on a map. We also learned about the different kinds of homes the Native Americans lived in. We learned that the type of home they lived in depended on where they lived and what they could use to build their homes. We compared and contrasted the Native American homes to our homes today and came up with

some interesting similarities and differences. We will take some time over the next several weeks to get to know each tribe a little better. We began with the Northwest Coast, and learned that they lived in plank houses, hunted whale, bear, and beaver, and were skilled carvers. We learned how they made totem poles to serve as decorations and to help support the roof of their homes. Next we will move on to the Woodland tribes.

## Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week in health we began learning about nutrition and making healthy food choices. We read about how food is digested in our bodies, how to use the Food

Guide Pyramid to determine how much and which kinds of foods to eat each day, and we learned how our bodies use food to help us think, work, move, play, and live!

## Special Announcements

There will be no newsletter next week due to the holiday break.

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and an enjoyable time with family and friends!

### Math Game of the Week:

"The Number Grid Game"

This game can be found on the website

[www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com).

This game is a great resource for practicing counting on by tens and ones to add bigger, 2-digit numbers.

