



Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Sept. 29-Oct.3, 2014

Reading

In Reader's Workshop this week we began learning about the genre of poetry. We explored various poems from our classroom library and made a list of things we noticed, and how poetry sounds and looks different from fiction and nonfiction. We will be focusing on informational poetry, so we've been reading many nonfiction poems about animals

and noting elements like rhyme, rhythm, imagery, and stanzas. The children have a booklet of mentor poems that we've been using during our mini-lessons to allow them to experience this type of genre firsthand. Each day we read a new poem and highlight the elements we have been studying. Our reading lessons are closely tied to our

writing lessons, so that children have the opportunity to read in the genre and explore its features before writing in the genre. In our Word Study lessons we studied compound words and syllables.

Writing

In writing this week we built off of our learning in Reader's Workshop by becoming researchers. We gathered information about bats. So we can write informational

Poems. We created Research Notebooks by to help us keep track of what bats look like, what they eat, and where they live. We learned how to make a diagram with labels, how to make a list using bullets, and how to complete a web. Then we

combined all our information to complete our prewrite, and began drafting our informational poems using a format called Haiku, which is a Japanese poem with three lines, consisting of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

Math

This week in math we made a list of strategies we can use when we subtract. We learned how to combine addition and subtraction facts and make Fact Families. The children cut out fact triangles to use as

flashcards in the classroom to help them practice their +/- facts. Your child brought home some fact triangles to keep at home for extra practice as well. We also discovered a trick about sums. When we add two even numbers, the sum is always even. When we

add two odd numbers, the sum is always even. When we add an even and an odd number, the sum is odd! Finally, we practiced measuring weight with a spring scale and balance, and learned how to create Name Collection Boxes for various numbers.

Upcoming Events:

10/27—Q1 Geography Test
10/28—Family Fun Night
10/31—EARLY RELEASE
10/31—Fall Party and Parade

Reminders:

- Remember to be filling out the October book list for our 2nd Grade Reading Club! Our goal is to read 24 books each month.
- A set of maps will be sent home next week so children can begin studying for the Quarter 1 Geography Test.

Next Week's Specials

Monday: PE

Tuesday: PE

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: IMC, Art

Friday: PE

Science

In science this week the children mowed their lawns a second time and discussed how quickly the grass had grown back, similar to our lawns at home! They also observed their cuttings and noted how the stems are growing from the nodes.

Social Studies

In social studies this week we shifted our focus from the continents and oceans to specifically zooming in to North America. We learned that North America is divided into several smaller countries. We will focus on Canada, the United States, and Mexico. We located these three countries on a map of North America,

and noted how the US is in three separate places. The children will be expected to know how to label these three countries on the Geography Test at the end of October. We also learned about several different landforms in the US and created a map to show where many landforms can be found.

Health/Guidance/Handwriting

In Health this week we learned about fire safety. October is national fire safety month, so we spent time talking about how to stay safe in case of a fire. We were

excited to welcome Mr. Adams to our classroom this week. He brought his gear and equipment from the fire department to share with the children and to talk with them

about fire safety. Some children completed the Fire Safety Plan activity that was sent home and enjoyed sharing their plan with the class!

Special Announcements

Our Fall Party will take place on Thursday, October 31st. This is an Early Release day, so the party and parade will be in the morning. I will notify families who signed up to bring food or supplies for the party a week in advance. The children are already very excited about what they will be dressing up as :)



Ask Your Child:

- What is a Haiku?
- What did you learn about bats in your research?
- Which is heavier, an ounce, or a pound?