

Phonics

We added the following to our hunks and chunks chant this week, oo as in pool and school; and oo as in hook and book; and or as in fork and torn. This week our phonics focus was reviewing short a, short i, beginning consonant blends, and words with a double consonant ending. Next week we will be working on ending blends such as -nd, -nk, and -st in words such as hand, pink, and fast. Ending blends are hard to hear as we talk way to fast and often do not put any emphasis on ends of words. Students have to be slow and robotic of all of the sounds in words next week in order to hear what to write.

Reading and Writing

Students reviewed beginning, middle and end of a story. We worked on including details in our illustrations. Students listened to a Halloween story, "Room on a Broom" and drew pictures that tell about the story including beginning, middle (two details), and end. Students also spent days reading the past main stories in their reader with a partner. We worked on our fluency reading short passages together on the Smartboard. Students were given a unit test that encompassed all of the reading, phonics, phonemic awareness and grammar learned in Unit one. Please go over the test with your child. The grade is not counted since all first grade classes do not start grades until second quarter. However, I felt this was excellent practice for the students. There will be a similar format for future unit tests. Next week we will be learning about teamwork.

Math

In math we continued addition with number stories. We reviewed adding to ten using number bonds, number sentences, and story problems. Students were tested on their knowledge of addition and all are showing wonderful progress and many are showing mastery. The test will be coming home next week. A parent letter will be attached along with a half sheet of paper explaining where your child is

performing. Even though a grade is on the paper, it will not be recorded in Progress Book. First grade begins taking grades the start of second quarter. We worked on odd and even numbers on Thursday and began subtraction. We will be working on subtraction through most of November. Subtraction is a difficult skill to understand, however the number bonds and number sentences will lead nicely into the fact families that show how addition and subtraction work together. We will learn new skills to use when we subtract and end the chapter with subtraction story problems.

Social Studies

Friday the students learned about maps. They learned there are a variety of maps to help us understand where we are, where we want to go, the makeup of land, weather, and layouts of our indoor environments. Students made a town map in the morning and a map of their classroom in the afternoon.

Looking forward to the cooler temperatures!

Mrs. Williams

"Great minds have purpose; others have wishes."

Washington Irving