



First Grade News

Mrs. Bisciotti's Class, April 1, 2010, Volume 13, Issue 8

Wow, where has the time gone? I can't believe we are already starting the month of April. Perhaps the weather will break, and it will begin to feel like springtime!

In reading, we continue to read whole-group stories that come from the Houghton-Mifflin resource. We have read stories such as The Sleeping Pig, Eek! There's a Mouse in the House, The Red-Eyed Tree Frog, That Toad is Mine, and Lost! With these books, we have continued to work on responding to literature in written form (echoing the question, elaborating), sight words and grammar skills (like naming words), comprehension skills (such as identifying the problem/ solution, story structure (beginning, middle, and end), sequencing, using text evidence, and making connections), furthering sound/ symbol relationships, and learning and reinforcing phonetic skills.

We continue to work in our guided reading groups daily. This allows for further differentiation of the comprehension or decoding skill your child is taught, as well as differentiated text. I continue to be amazed at the tremendous growth the children are making with their reading. I am continually updating and revising their individual reading materials. Please continue to work at home with fluency; having the students read the words on pages in phrases (rather than one word at a time) and for the oral reading to sound like the children are talking. This is usually accomplished by rereading familiar text.

Our At-Home Reading is in need of volunteers! PLEASE call me or send me in a note if you are available to sign up and help.

The children continue to do an awesome job in Writer's Workshop! Given that March included Dr. Seuss' birthday, the children decided to try creating a book like Dr. Seuss. They followed Dr. Seuss' lead and created rhyming stories, beautifully illustrated about feelings. Also, as you saw at Open House, writing our reports was quite a process. The children did an awesome job with including facts about the Moon while including an engaging introduction and conclusion, as well as five very detailed fact pages. The version they brought home was typed by me, but your children did all the research and work and definitely met and exceeded expectations!

In math, we finished up our unit on grouping objects into various sets, which helps with early division and multiplication skills. In this unit, skip counting by twos, fives, and tens was also included. This skip counting served as a nice spring board to introduce the concept of money to children. We have been learning the values of the coins (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters) as well as how to count up mixed combinations of the coins up to 99 cents. Any

real word practice in this area would be very beneficial, as money is an abstract concept and it takes some students longer to master it.

We have started our science unit on living things. So far, we have been studying our classroom earthworms, and learning the characteristics of them that help them grow and survive. The children have enjoyed examining the little critters, and are on their way to becoming "wormologists!"

Until next month...

April 2 No School- Good Friday

April 4..... Happy Easter

April 9.....Book Orders due

April 17-25.....No School- April Break

April 26.....School Resumes

