



Room 9 Weekly Newsletter

Week of January 8 - 12, 2018

Reading

Our Reading lessons have focused on:

- how to "talk long and strong" about books we are reading with partners
- identifying text features in nonfiction texts and understanding their purpose
- identifying the MAIN IDEA and DETAILS of short passages as a class, with a partner, and independently

Charlotte's Web update:

This week we read chapters 1-8. We've had fun answering trivia questions each day related to the previous night's reading. We've also been listening to the previous night's chapters during snack time so we stay caught up (or understand it better by hearing it a second time). We've been collecting Wondrous Words from our nightly reading and discussing their meanings as we build a display outside our classroom as well.

We also used the STEAM lab on Friday to complete two challenges related to Charlotte's Web:

1. Weave a web and use pipe cleaners to write in a word that describes yourself using only paper plates, yarn, tape, and pipe cleaners.
 2. Make Charlotte the spider using only pipe cleaners (and tape, if needed).
- Our finished projects are on display outside our classroom! 😊

Math

Our Math lessons included:

- more skip counting practice with our "hot and cold" Humphrey game
- problem-solving with "target numbers" to encourage flexible thinking
- recognizing that 2-digit numbers can be represented in many different ways
- using the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$ to COMPARE 2-digit numbers and explaining how we know one number is larger or smaller than another
- putting a set of numbers in order from least to greatest or greatest to least
- taking a mid-unit quiz to check how we're doing with place value to 100 before we move on to 3-digit numbers
- skip counting by 10s and 5s through the 900s!
- review stations and games to reinforce 2-digit place value while I worked with a small group needing a little more reteaching and practice with the same concepts.

We'll be diving into 3-digit place value work next week!



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Writing

This week's Writing lessons focused on:

- using a 2nd grade writing rubric to SET GOALS for ourselves as writers as we continue to work on nonfiction books
- working on writing MORE during each writing period (Focus, Focus, Focus!)
- writing an About the Author page
- editing our writing
- using what we know about note-taking and paragraph writing to write a paragraph about Martin Luther King, Jr.
- using what we know about great nonfiction texts to make our own books more interesting and exciting to read!

Our Spelling and Phonics lessons included:

- distinguishing between long and short U
- recognizing that the following patterns all make a long u sound: oo, u-e, ui
- making words with the letters in our mystery word BATHROOM
- reviewing ANTONYMS (opposites)
- playing a SCOOT game to reinforce long u patterns (ui, ew, ue)

Science / Social Studies

This week we learned how the post office works to get mail delivered, especially during holiday rushes!

Mr. C and Mrs. Irwin (a representative from the American Heart Association) held an assembly on Monday so could learn about our Jump Rope for Heart fundraising event and how to keep our hearts healthy. After all, we only have ONE heart so we need to take care of it!

We have also spent time learning more about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and having some truly amazing conversations about that period of time in our country's history when segregation was practiced in many places. It's incredible what second graders understand about this injustice and how well they voice their opinions on this topic.

Announcements

****** Our field trip to the high school is being rescheduled for February 26th. I will need to send home new permission forms so be on the watch for those in your children's folders soon!

****** Valentine's Day comes up next month. We will NOT have a party, but we will exchange cards and do a few activities in class. If your child decides to make cards, please be sure he/she brings one for EVERYONE in the class. A class list will go home soon for those of you needing time to fill them out! ☺