



## Room 9 Weekly Newsletter

### Week of March 12 - 16, 2018

#### Reading

This week we focused on:

- reading fluently (smoothly) and with expression while paying attention to the MOOD and the CHARACTERS in books
- thinking about LITERARY LANGUAGE and what it may mean

- \* Idioms like "it's raining cats and dogs" and "don't let the cat out of the bag"
- \* Comparisons that connect two ideas that are similar in some way (snow as white as milk in a cereal bowl OR trees as still as statues)

Amelia Bedelia books are great for listening for literary language and how people make mistakes in their meanings!!

#### Math

This week's math lessons focused on:

- adding 2-digit numbers using an OPEN NUMBER LINE and tens and ones jumps
- adding THREE 2-digit numbers on an open number line
- introducing subtraction on a number line
- problem-solving using number lines

We also reviewed the following concepts:

- reading and interpreting graphs
- adding using place value blocks or the break apart ("tree") strategy to add and subtract
- the names for 3D shapes

On Friday, we counted up our money and used what we know about adding bigger numbers to total our amounts. Then we visited our classroom store. 😊



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#### Writing

We are in our OPINION writing unit in which we are writing lots of letters about the books we're reading. This week we focused on:

- talking with a writing partner to rehearse our ideas before writing
- writing opinions about characters, illustrations, and favorite parts WITH REASONS AND EXAMPLES (EVIDENCE) FROM OUR BOOKS
- writing longer and stronger letters that engage our readers!
- adding MORE in the form of RETELLING small parts of our books so our readers are not confused
- telling about more than one opinion in a single letter

Our spelling and phonics work included:

- the new patterns: EAR and ER
- more practice with CONTRACTIONS
- HOMOPHONES (words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings)

#### Science / Social Studies

We had another planet gallery walkthrough on Monday to teach a few kindergartens and a first grade class what we learned!

We also continued to talk about the TRANSFER of energy as we did more work with FOOD CHAINS. We watched a Magic School Bus video about food chains too. We talked about the transfer of energy as a bouncy ball hits a desk (some of the energy goes into the desk so the ball does not bounce back as high). We also dropped a ball into a bowl of uncooked rice and were surprised to find that the ball stopped completely and the rice exploded out of the bowl! This is because all of the energy in the ball went into those tiny pieces of rice which couldn't contain it all and bounced up! Isn't science fun? We began to talk about FORCES (pushes and pulls) that are needed to make things start moving too.

We also had a mini Science Fair in room 9 during which our 6 participants in the Overlook Science Celebration shared their projects and all they knew about their topics with the rest of the class! We had some fascinating topics and these kids are definitely EXPERTS on their projects! ☺

#### Announcements

\*\* Report cards went home on Thursday. Please sign and return the envelopes as soon as possible. All other papers are yours to keep.

\*\* Spring Recess is the last week of March. There is NO SCHOOL then and we'll return to school on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (We no longer have April 3<sup>rd</sup> off.)