



Ms. De La Matter's First Grade Newsletter October 11, 2018

ELA/Language Workshop

The students have really been enjoying analyzing books. We have been working on words and phrases author's use to describe characters, the central message and retelling a story they have read. Retelling is a very important skill in first grade. You can work on this with your child at home by having your child retell a story they have read.

ELA/Reading Workshop

The students have learned how to choose "Just Right" books to read during independent reading. A Just Right book is not too easy, not too hard, but just right.

A book is too easy if you read it too quickly and/or there are no tricky words.

A book that is too hard has more than five words that you can't figure out on one page or you don't understand what you are reading.

A just right book can have up to four tricky words on a page, but you understand what is going on.

The students have also worked on how to share a book during Partner Reading and building up their reading stamina during Independent Reading.

ELA/Writing Workshop

We have been working on adding details to our writing small moments. A small moment is like taking a snapshot of something you were doing. Instead of writing about your day at the beach, you would write about building a sandcastle. Another example is instead of writing about going to the water park, you would write about going on the biggest water slide. The students started the year writing their small moments over three pages. Now they are learning to add more details and are writing their small moments over five pages!

Social Studies/Science

The students learned how to read a map by using a map key and cardinal directions. They had fun making maps of their bedrooms and then using a compass rose to tell where objects are located in their bedrooms. We are now starting our first Science unit. Our Essential Question is: How does Earth's relationship with the sun, moon, and stars create patterns? We have started to work on answering this question by learning what causes day and night.

Upcoming Dates

I am looking forward to talking with all of you at conferences. The conference dates are October 16, 18 and 24.

The first grade classes will be going to the planetarium on October 16. You are invited to meet us at the planetarium at 9:30 for the show if you have completed a background check.

Word Work/Grammar

The students have been working on capitalizing proper nouns.

We have also been working on:

*short a

*ack (stack, black, track)

*ack (stack, black, track)

*sh and th

Your child should be able start using these in their reading and writing.

It is so wonderful to see how our class is always helping each other.

Their caring for others really shows.



Working on our small moment writing pieces together



