



Ms. De La Matter's First Grade Newsletter October 8, 2020

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 small moment writing pieces. 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 will be learning to add more details and writing their small moments over four pages!

Social Studies/Science

The students learned how to read a map by using a map key and a compass rose. 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 Conferences

I am looking forward to talking with all of you at conferences. The conference dates are October 15, 20, and 22.

Word Work/Grammar

We have been working on:

*short a

*ack (stack, black, track)

*Digraphs (sh, th, ch, th)

*Short i

*ick (stick, trick, brick)

Your child should be able to 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.



Making murals like the girl in Maybe Something Beautiful



Sharing maps of our bedrooms

