

Kindergarten Chronicles  
December 14, 2018

It was another great week in Kindergarten! Thank you again to those of you who have donated to our adopt-a-family. We will continue to collect gifts until Wednesday, December 19th. Thank you for your support with this program. Your generosity has been inspiring!

We were treated to a holiday concert on Wednesday. Ms. Bailey led the band in some holiday songs. Mr. Gall conducted while the chorus sang and the chimes played. It was a wonderful way to get us into the holiday spirit!

In Reader's Workshop, we have continued to work on making our super powers extra strong! The children used extra strength sound power and learned that they have to look at the ending letters of a word to make sure that they are reading it correctly. They also learned to preview a page to find words they already know. This is something you can do at home. Have your child hunt for sight words when you are reading to them. The super readers also used extra strong picture power to look at the whole picture to help them figure out even harder words. They used extra strength picture and snap word power to figure out the words when a pattern in a book breaks. They continued to check their reading to make sure it looks right, sounds right, and makes sense. Thank you for your encouragement and support with our budding readers!

In Writer's Workshop, the children continued to work on their narrative stories. This week we focused on having a good beginning, middle and end. We talked about using a storyteller's voice to make our stories more interesting. Children were encouraged to write using words like, One sunny day, One day, Then, Next, Finally, At last. We also focused on using feeling words to show how people felt during their stories. For example, I decorated my Christmas tree. I felt happy! Please encourage this at home when they are writing as well.

The children spent this week reviewing all of the sight words we have learned so far this school year. Our new words this week were **an** and **you**. Our letters of the week were **Qq and Zz**. The children practiced writing lowercase **q and z** during Foundations and writing three sound words that include these letters. We have now learned all the letters! Next term, we will continue to work on letter formation and will be using these letters to build three letter words.

This week in math, we continued to work on story problems as a whole class. We are working on combining two numbers to find the total and separating one number from a bigger number to find out what's left. We are also working on reading equations together. We have begun working on our fluency within five that we discussed during our conferences. Please make sure you are practicing adding

and subtracting up to five with your child. This week, the students learned the game Double Compare. In this partner game, each student flipped over two cards and added them up to find the total. Whichever partner had the highest total was the winner of that round. In this game, they focused on combining two numbers to find the total. They also learned Build It/Change It. In this activity the students flip over a number card, put that many cubes on a ten frame, roll a +1/-1 dice and add one or subtract one and find what the total is/what is left. This was a difficult game but they did their best. Please continue to practice adding and subtracting one with your child.

This week was our last week in science. Mrs. Sisson's class learned that humans can make choices so that other living things can get what they need. They also learned that scientists think back and describe new things they have learned so they can understand and remember them better. Ms. Kline's class finished their forces and motion unit by reflecting on their movement hunt and comparing the forces they saw to the forces in their pinball machines. Mrs. Nestle's class learned more about the different kinds of severe weather [snow storms, tornados, floods, etc.]. The children also learned about different ways that they could prepare for severe weather. Next term, Ms. Kline's class will learn about weather with Mrs. Nestle, Mrs. Nestle's class will learn about plants and animals with Mrs. Sisson and Mrs. Sisson's class will learn about forces with Ms. Kline. We look forward to teaching all of the kindergarten students science this year.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Kindergarten Team

Our word wall words so far are: **a, and, at, an, can, do, go, he, I, is, in, like, my, me, on, so, see, the, to, up, you**

#### **Updates and Reminders:**

- Adopt-A-Family gifts are due by Wednesday, December 19th
- Report cards will go home on Friday, December 21st. Please make sure you sign the envelope and return in January
- Winter Break: School will be closed December 24- January 1, they will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd
- As the winter weather continues please make sure that your child has labeled hats, gloves, scarves, etc
- Also, as it gets dryer out, please feel free to keep labeled lip balm and hand lotion in your child's backpack
- Don't forget to look at the Highlands' Website at <http://danverspublicschools.org/highlands/>