

# Kindergarten Chronicles

## January 11, 2019

It was another great week in Kindergarten! It was nice to have a full week together after vacation. We really settled back into our routines and schedules.

The kindergarten students graduated from Unit 3, "Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles" on Tuesday. They all received a poem and their "diploma". They are working so hard to become better readers! On Wednesday we began our next reading unit, "Becoming Avid Readers". In these first few lessons, we discussed what an avid reader looks like. Avid readers read a lot, find places everywhere to read, keep a stack of books-in-waiting, can't stop reading, really pay attention to the book, and feel what the characters are feeling. One fun activity to do at home is take 10 minutes on Saturday and/or 10 minutes on Sunday and make it family avid reading time where you all read your own book together (even if they are just looking at pictures). That way, your child can see you being an avid reader as well!

The children also finished the narrative unit in Writer's Workshop. They ended by picking one piece to "fancy up" and publish. They had a lot of fun showing off all their hard work and everything they learned during this unit.

In math, we began a new unit, "Build A Block, Build A Wall". We began by looking at and talking about 3-D shapes (cone, cylinder, rectangular prism, square prism, sphere, triangular prism, cube and pyramid). We then did a 3-D shape hunt in our classroom. We will send home a 3-D shape hunt for you to complete with your child this weekend. Have fun!

In science, the three kindergarten classes switched teachers for this term. Ms. Kline's class is learning about weather with Mrs. Nestle. Mrs. Nestle's class is learning about plants and animals with Mrs. Sisson. Mrs. Sisson's class is learning about pushes and pulls with Ms. Kline. This week, Mrs. Nestle's students learned what a scientist does, the needs of plants and animals, and identified living and nonliving things. Mrs. Sisson's class learned about forces and motion. They discovered that objects do not start to move until a force is exerted on it by another object. They practiced making things move in different ways with pushes and pulls. For science, Ms. Kline's class learned about the different types of weather: sunny, cloudy, windy, rainy, and snowy. Students also discussed different temperatures and used a thermometer to measure cold and warm water.

In Foundations, we have completed learning about the lowercase letters. We are now reviewing the lowercase letters and have begun to tap out and read three letter words (consonant-vowel-consonant or cvc) words. The children did great with this skill! You can practice at this at home! Write simple cvc words (ex: top,

mop, Sam, bam, rut, pug, leg, pet, sip, Tim) and have them tap them out and blend them to read. You will be amazed! We also added the words **am** and **said** to our word wall this week.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Kindergarten Team

Our word wall words so far are: **a, am, and, at, an, can, do, go, he, I, is, in, like, my, me, no, on, so, see, said, the, to, up, you**

**Updates and Reminders:**

- Please make sure you sign the report card envelope and return ASAP
- 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/>