

Kindergarten Chronicles

March 15, 2019

The highlight of this week was that leprechauns broke into our classrooms, made a big mess, got into our traps but then they were able to get away out the window! They are so sneaky those crazy leprechauns! They left everyone some treats so that helped ease the pain of not catching them!

In Reader's Workshop this week the students learned how to retell a nonfiction story by using facts. They practiced telling the topic, main idea, details, and important vocabulary words. This is a skill that you can practice at home when reading together both fiction and nonfiction stories. Retelling and comprehension are a crucial part of being a good reader and can be a difficult skill for some children. They practice this every time they read to an adult in school. Later in the week, they worked on this during partner reading by giving their partner a little lesson about their book. They did a great job sharing their books with their partners!

In Writer's Workshop, the children worked on using their strategies to spell tricky words. Good writers stretch the words and listen carefully for the sounds, check the word wall, remember to use a vowel, listen for the little words (ex: into is in and to), and use the room/name tags to help them spell. They are doing great with this skill! Encourage them at home to not ask you how to spell everything but to use the above strategies! They also worked on making their opinion letters really convincing so that people would listen to what they were saying and they could really make a change in the world, our classroom, or in our school! It's always so fun to see what ideas they come up with!

In Foundations, the children continued to work on segmenting sounds in words in order to write them and blending sounds together when reading words. They also learned that you use the letter c if the vowel is a, o, u (ex: cat, cot, cut) and a k when the vowel is i or e (ex: kid, Ken) We also learned two new sight words this week: **as** and **by**.

We finished up Unit 7 in math this week. The children continued to practice counting items by ones and twos. They had a lot of fun counting eyes at home and learning that if a family had 3 people in it, there were 6 eyes. If the family had 4 people in it, there were 8 eyes. Some were able to recognize the pattern that you doubled the number of people to see how many eyes there were!

Ms. Nestle's class saw how seeds change into plants. They also examined their garlic plants. The ones in water did grow and the one without water did not grow! So they learned that plants need water to grow. Ms. Kline's class learned that sunlight warms a surface over time and that the longer the sun shines on the surface, the warmer it gets. Hopefully we will start to feel that warm sun soon! In Mrs. Sisson's class, students used what they have learned about the strength and direction of forces to hit targets with their own pinball machines. They also started exploring what makes an object change direction and how they can make a pinball change direction when playing with their machine.

As always, we wish for you a wonderful weekend with your family!

-The Kindergarten Team

High Frequency Words:

I, can, the, a, to, is, my, go, me, like, on, in, so, we, it, and, up, at, see, he, do, you, an, no, am, said, went, come, here, are, this, look, for, play, was, they, here, will, as, by

Updates and Reminders:

- Don't forget the school calendar as well as other important information can be found on the school website: danverspublicschools.org/Highlands.
- Thursday, March 28th is our field trip to the Boston Children's Museum. Please return the field trip permission slip and \$13 ASAP.
- March Madness next week is favorite book/tv/movie character day