



Room 109 Weekly Update

December 8, 2023

Heggerty - This week we continued to practice listening for blends. We are getting pretty good at finding them everywhere! Some friends still need reminders that a blend has to be two or more consonants (so there are never any vowels a, e, i, o, or u with a consonant that makes a blend). We have also been starting to learn about the magic e. When Magic E comes at the end of a word, it will sometimes use its "magical powers" to change the short vowel sound to make a long vowel sound and say its name. For example, we can start with the word bit, but when we add a magic e to the end, the word becomes "bite." Right now, students are just getting exposure to hearing and seeing some of these sounds/letter combinations. We will focus more on writing words with the magic e later in the year through Foundations.

Foundations - This week we started and finish Unit 6, which is a three weeklong unit, which will finish up right before the vacation break. In this unit, we started to learn about our second suffix or word ending. So far, we have learned about the suffix "ed" which we add to the end of a word to show that something has happened in the past (such as from "start" to "started"). Today we were introduced to the suffix "s." We learned that the suffix "s" can be used to show more than one of something. This is called the plural. When we want to spell a word with a suffix, our rule is to "Spell the Base Word first, then add the suffix." So, if we want to write about more than one cat, we would be sure to spell the base word cat first, then we would add the suffix s. (Therefore, "cat" + "s" = cats). By spelling the base word first, this helps to eliminate errors, especially when adding the suffix s to word that end with a "ck" digraph. For example, to write "more than one stick," many students want to spell the word "stix." However, if students spell the base word "stick" first, and then adds the suffix "s", their accuracy improves so they can spell it accurately "sticks." Right now, students will be learning a lot of "rules" to help with spelling, but as the year goes on, we will learn that there are also many "exceptions" or "rule breakers." English is a tricky language!

Reading Workshop: During Reading Workshop this week, we have continued to learn more about informational texts. We have finished typing our bat facts, so be on the lookout for seeing this information soon. We have also read and listened to informational facts through our Scholastic News.

Another area that we have been working on, is being able to select "just right books." As we are starting to read more independently (and with more stamina), we want students to be able to choose books that are best to help them practice their reading skills to become better readers. Similar to Goldilocks, we don't want the porridge that is too hot, or too cold, but we want to find the porridge that is "just right." This means that books that have too many hard words (more than 4 or 5) are not the best for us to choose to read independently since as readers, we would need to work too hard. However, books that we can easily read words quickly and with little effort, are too easy. The best selection for us would be to find books that have 1-3 tricky or difficult words that we can solve by ourselves so that our brains can actively work to problem solve and retain the information or show comprehension.

Writing

This week, students continued to work on their Bat stories using the computer and their technology skills. Students worked together in partners, so that one student would be the reader and help spell the written text, and other student would be the "typer" and find the letters on the keyboard to word process the story. Students worked very well together and for our first big tech project, I was very impressed with their stamina, perseverance and products! What an age we live in!

Math - This week, we started our unit "Show and Make Sense of Data." In this unit, we learned that data (pronounced both dah-tuh and day-tuh) is a fancy word for information. We will be learning how to collect data, organize data using bar graphs and tally marks, and how to "read" and compare data. We are also being introduced to 3 dimensional shapes in our Number Flight Calendar activities, so you may hear your child looking for rectangular prisms, spheres, cubes or cylinders around your home. First grade is such an amazing year of exposure and introduction to new concepts, building on previously learning information, and making connections to add new information more meaningful!

Other news

Report cards are being sent home today in your child's Daily folder. Families are asked to keep the report cards and additional papers at home, but please sign and return the Report Card Envelope to school so that it can be re-used for future trimesters. You may also write any questions or comments if you wish.

Have a fantastic weekend!

April Fuller