

September 2, 2016

Hi Room 31!

Wow! The rockstars have had a busy (and amazing!) week! They have worked so very hard this week. There is a lot of learning going on in here.

Reading

This week, we read two short informational pieces called Beaver Lodges and Termite Mounds. While reading these stories, we practiced a new active reading/comprehension strategy: "Asking questions and looking for answers". Before we read, we asked questions about what we wanted to learn or what we were curious about. Then, while reading, we looked for the answers with our highlighters in hand! We did this together so students could learn the right questions to ask, how to be on the lookout for the answers in the reading, and how to efficiently highlight important information. For each story, we then wrote out the answers we found, and used *key details from our reading to support our answers*. We will be doing a lot of this in here, as reading shifts in third grade from learning to read TO reading to learn! Our written answers varied... some were quick answers and others were more thought out responses to text. The students did a wonderful job on this activity. I even heard many say it was fun! ☺ Next week, they will read a third informational piece and follow this same process all on their own!

We completed our second week of spelling and DLI. Students created their own personal spelling journals this week. Whenever I find a word spelled wrong (whether on a spelling test or in their writing), they record it in their spelling journal so they can have some personal challenge words for the week.

Math

We continued to solidify our recall knowledge of basic facts. I'm so proud – many of the kids have taken minutes off their timed basic fact tests! We discussed patterns in addition and subtraction facts, and we began to discuss multiplication patterns in our number corner. As we practice multiplication, students will be making their own flashcards. Also, in our number corner, we made a bar graph. The topic of this bar graph was: "How do you like to work when faced with a challenging math problem?" Most students voted to work with a partner! Finally, we played "Target Twenty". Ask your child how to play – they loved it!

Social Studies

We began our study of CA regions. Groups of 4 students became experts on one region and then had to teach the rest of the class about their region. We will finish this up next week, and then begin our study of CA Native Americans, just in time for our field trip.

Extras

Tech: We had our first computer lab of the year with Ms. Dozier. Students also got to use chrome books in class. We learned how to properly take care of our chrome books, and how to login and sign out. They also got to play Lexia, take AR quizzes, and practice our typing program. (Speaking of AR quizzes, many students love taking them! At this point, they are taking them on any book they want, including picture books. Soon, I will be requiring chapter books only.)

PE: Students started their dance practice! They are SO excited! If they are anything like my kids, I am sure they have shown you most of the dance already! ☺

Art: We studied Georgia O'Keeffe today and began painting our own flowers. They are not quite done yet, but they look AMAZING!

***REMINDER – I don't send a lot of homework, but do ask that students read and write a sentence on their reading log. There were a lot of missing reading logs this week. All students were still able to participate in Friday

Fun. Next week, missing assignments will affect the participation in Friday Fun! Please remind your child to read nightly and fill out their reading log.

Have a great weekend! I am enjoying each and every one of your children! ☺

Stephanie Cochenour