
FIRST GRADE

literacy, math, science



First grade has been hit by viruses! On Monday and Tuesday we were down to six students! Then we had no school on Thursday and a late start on Friday. It has certainly been a whacky week! We never made it back to our full 12, but hopefully next week we will be healthy and strong!

Hanging birds in the
pine trees

Valentines Day is on Friday. If students wish to bring in Valentines, they must have one for everyone. Here are the names of the students in class (should they wish to individually address them): **Abby, Cedar, Galileo, Isabella, Javian, Mallory, River, Sabine, Sadie, Sam, Tuva, Vivian**

In **Reading**, we have been learning all about the Silent (or Bossy) E that sits at the end of the word. When the silent e is at the end of the word, it glares

at the other vowel, and the vowel says it's name! We have been reading a variety of silent e words: hope, home, pile, make, take, shine. In our Literacy block, students read, write, and make these words with tiles. It is astonishing how quickly they are self-correcting the short vowel to the long vowel when reading these words! Please be on the lookout for texts and completed worksheets on the week's lesson. They should be able to read and spell many of these words to you. Also, they know that the more they read a text, the more fluent readers they become. Also, they become stronger spellers.

In **Math**, we are beginning to learn about time. The first grade standard is that all first graders are able to tell time to the hour and half hour. It is common for there to confusion between the minute and hour hands. We are also learning about the $\frac{1}{2}$ and the $\frac{1}{4}$ symbols. Students practice cutting circles and rectangles into $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ parts. Next, we will begin to look at whole numbers and finding halves. For example, 4 is half of 8, or $4+4=8$. We will learn "the doubles equations" so that they can become known equations.

In **Science**, Mr. Ted visited our class again. He brought with him various photographs of bird beaks, and we noticed how many bird beaks act as tweezers (warblers), ladles (pelicans), nutcrackers, and strainers. What determines the shape of the beak is how they get/eat their food! Next, students designed bird beaks and the food for that particular beak. We went outside and looked at mountain laurel, pine, and birch trees and had a "bird hunt", using laminated birds. Mr. Ted has been SO kind and wonderful to the kiddos. They loved having him visit our class. Hopefully he can come back next year to continue his work.



Today we were visited by the Whale Mobile! Students learned a lot about whales, in particular baleen whales. They learned about how whales talk, how they breathe, and they even got to go inside the HUGE blow-up blue whale (43 feet long).

