
FIRST GRADE

Happy New Year's!



Happy New Year's! I hope that everyone had a lovely vacation, filled with family fun, health, and cozy days.

First grade quickly got back into the swing of things! We are starting many new units. In **Math**, we are starting a unit on Bigger Numbers. Students traced their feet on paper, filled the foot print with cubes, and then counted the cubes. As a class we organized the class data from **least to greatest**. We learned the symbols of **greater than, less than, equal to**. Many students are beginning to notice that numbers are composed of groups of **tens and ones**. When looking at 27 and 35, students should eventually be able to articulate that 25 is smaller because it has less tens than 35. We will be working with bigger numbers as well as circling back to addition and

filling shapes and
organizing them from
least to greatest

subtraction story problems.

In **Reading**, we are starting a Non-Fiction unit. On Thursday, students were given the challenge to be detectives and to find interesting features of non-fiction texts. They were sent to their tables with non-fiction books on a variety of topics. When we reconvened on the carpet, students shared some of their observations. We learned that non-fiction uses information to teach about a topic, and that those topics can range from animals to space to people to games! (Many students initially think of non-fiction as animal books). Most students noticed that non-fiction texts often have photographs instead of drawings (though not always), and that texts use facts to convey information. Today we noticed special features such as “the close-up” photographs, and we noticed the purpose of labels! We will continue to learn about non-fiction texts over the next couple of weeks, which will be integrated into our **Science** unit that we are beginning, on Biomimicry.

Students are learning that a **sentence** is a group of words that convey a complete thought. In **Writing**, we are focusing on writing complete sentences on a non-fiction topic that they are experts on. Most students are writing sentences about an animal that they know a lot about, but some are writing about games.

In **Social Studies** we are reading picture books on **people who worked for justice**. Today we read about Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and as a class we talked about the meaning of **fairness** and **justice**. We also noticed that in order to be workers for justice, we need to have **courage**. Courage will be a word that is central to our read alouds throughout the book.

