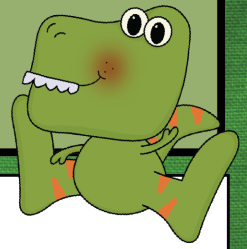


Mrs. Donovan's Weekly News

February 1, 2019



Greetings from our classroom...

Well, we survived the deep freeze these last few days in Kindergarten! The students did a great job being creative and exploring new games during all of the indoor recess time we had. It was a very busy week as well – we had a writer's Publishing Party, participated in the Hour of Code and finished up the first long unit of *Foundations*. Wow! On to 100 Day next week!



Having Fun with Math!

This week in Math we played our Top It! game (which is like the card game *War*) with number cards. The challenge after we flipped over the cards was to determine which number was larger. Students knew they could use number lines, our Days in School number line or even the class calendar to figure it out. We also realized we could use a number grid to count by 5's or 10's or count on from a number!

Wrapping Up of Unit 1 in Foundations...

This week we studied the letters Q and Z to finish up learning the sounds that all of the letters in the alphabet make. We talked about how Q can be tricky because when we see Q in a word, it always comes before its best friend U. The students completed Q/Z sorts and did a great job stretching out the sounds they heard in the words. They also made Question Mark and Zucchini class books and brainstormed lots of words that start with Q and Z. Next week we will begin to work on blending sounds into words on a daily basis. The students are excited to practice this skill. Many are already exploring how to do this as they read some of the books in our classroom library.



Celebrating the Hour of Code!

On Wednesday, we celebrated the Hour of Code! All of Willard School participated in various coding activities throughout the day. In our room, the students worked in pairs on the iPads to write code for simple puzzles and an Angry Birds video game. Some codes had up to 6 or 7 lines at a time – they did an awesome job! Many thanks to Milo's dad for coming in to help us with our coding. ☺

Writing Workshop Publishing Party!

Friday we had our first Publishing Party for Writing Workshop. The students have been hard at work on 1, 2 and even 3 page stories, many of which teach us about something they know well, like how to ride a bike or how to play soccer. Each student picked one story to "fix and fancy up." Then they got to use our microphone and read the story to the class. Everyone was an excellent audience for their classmates. It was a lot of fun!

Reminders for Next Week:

We are so excited to celebrate 100 Days of school on Tuesday! We will do fun activities throughout the week. Students can continue to bring in their 100 Day collections on Monday.

We are also starting to talk about Valentine's Day. I sent home a list of students' names to help with writing Valentines, although it is also completely fine to just have your child sign enough Valentines for everyone and not address them to particular children. Please let me know if you have any questions. ☺

