

The Surf Report



from Miss Hutchinson's Class

Here is what we have been up to during the month of December.

Reading

We learned the last three Literature Circle jobs: Word Wizard, Passage Master, and Artful Artist. We spent a few weeks focusing on each of these three jobs to make sure everyone understand each responsibility. Right before vacation, we did our first Literature Circle! Each child was responsible for a job within the group. We spent the first day reading the book and preparing for each job. The next day was spent having a discussion about the book. Ask your child about the book they read and what job they were assigned.

Writing Workshop

We focused on realistic fiction this month in writing workshop. As an introduction to the unit we read a lot of different examples of realistic fiction. We realized that our work with small moments could help us to write realistic fiction. We could use ideas from our own lives, but instead of writing about ourselves we could create characters to be in the story. Everyone has been working hard to create realistic fiction stories and making sure that they contain a problem and a solution.

Foundations

This month was spent focusing on multisyllabic words. We have learned how to break up words and mark the syllables. This has been helpful in our reading and writing. If we are unsure how to read or spell a word we now know to stop and break it up into syllables.

Math

We started a new unit called Stickers, Number Strings and Story Problems. We have been solving lots of story problems and identifying clues that let us know whether to add or subtract. We have also been using a lot of tools to help us solve story problems. Have your child show you how to use these tools. Ask them about number lines, ten frames, adding tens and ones, and breaking up the numbers.

We have also been coming up with our own story problems for a given equation. We talked about the similarity between the realistic fiction stories that we are writing and story problems. They both have characters, settings, problems, and solutions.

Science

This month our study of weather focused on wind. We learned about the way wind speed is measured. We made pinwheels and wind socks to test out wind direction using the fans in our classroom. We also watched a video on hurricanes and another on tornadoes.

Social Studies

We moved into the plains for our study of Native Americans. We learned that these Native Americans lived in tipis because they can be easily moved to follow a herd of buffalo. We learned how important the buffalo was to the people of the plains. They did not waste any part of it. We were amazed to find out that a male buffalo was 12 feet long and 6 feet tall. We measured this out in our classroom.

The highlight of this month was a visit from Dan Cripps for a Native American presentation. We sat in a real tipi! It was an exciting event! We saw many Native American artifacts and even touched buffalo fur.

New Year's Eve Party

Our New Year's Eve celebration was very exciting! We made noisemakers in preparation for the big event. At 11:59 we had a countdown and watched the ball drop in Times Square. Then we had fun reading our New Year's Notes.

Happy New Year!