



January

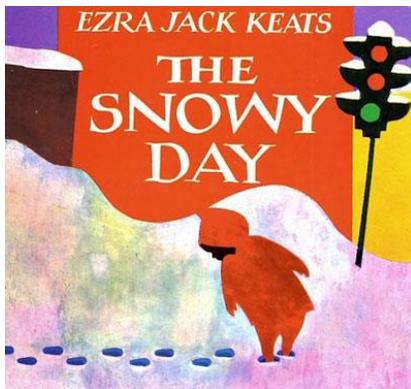
Waite Park
Community School
Room 104

January 2017

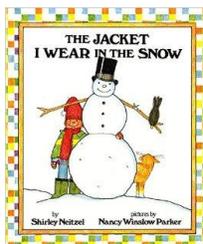
Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

Reading

We're learning how to understand story grammar. We recount stories, determine their central message/lesson, describe how characters change throughout a text, and identify characters point of view. We continue to learn how illustrations and words help a reader understand a story.



In this text, *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats, we read each page, contemplating words and pictures. We really connected with Peter, the main character with our own prior knowledge of winter and his experiences.



It was a natural connection to read this wintry story, reminding us about how to dress appropriately for cold winter days. We compare and contrast a variety of texts.

Writing

We are listening to ideas from classmates and teachers about our writing. Each student has been completing feedback forms. These describe what we like and a suggestion of what the writer can do to make it even better. It's been very positive! In this process, we ask and answer questions about the writing. We're conscious about adding details that will help the reader understand our narratives. We are also focusing on punctuation.

Math

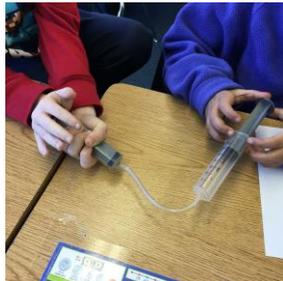
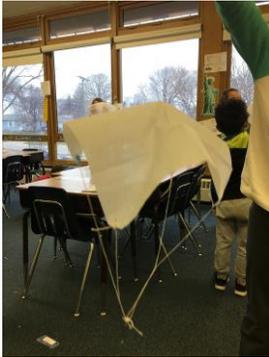
We are exploring groups of tens and hundreds to represent three-digit numbers. We are building and identifying these quantities as we find numbers on grids and use place value charts. We are also continuing our work with solving word problems, realizing there is more than one correct way to solve the question, discovering ways that are efficient. Basic math facts will be an area of focus in the upcoming weeks. Making addition and subtraction facts automatic will be emphasized, noting that this saves time when contemplating bigger math problems.

Social Studies

A theme of our economics unit is the cost and benefit in decisions we make. We've integrated this unit into our daily lives in the classroom. We created a new helper schedule and students chose which job they wanted to perform as we began our rotation. When contemplating hopes and dreams, this concept helps us create a path to achieving goals.

Science

How does air affect a parachute? Through various experiments, we have discovered that air plays a crucial part in how some things work. We built parachutes and used other tools to observe how air interacts with these things, and what we can learn about air by noticing what happens.



Reminders

It's cold weather season!

Please remember your warm coats, hats, scarves, mittens, snow pants and boots.



3rd Quarter Specialist Schedule (begins Jan. 31st)

2:30-3:25

Monday

P.E. with Ms. Tollefson Jackson

Tuesday

Art with Ms. Hubert

Wednesday

Music with Mr. Worrell

Thursday

Media with Ms. McEathron

Friday

Media with Ms. McEathron

Upcoming Events

No School

Monday, Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Friday, Jan. 27 – Record Keeping Day

Monday, January 30 – Summer Flex Day,
Responsive Classroom Training

3rd Quarter Schedule Begins

Tuesday, January 31 (see above)

Thank you!