

Curriculum Connection

Reading with Mrs. Simmons:

We worked on some of the skills that went along with our Mae Jamison story from last week. We started by reviewing main idea and supporting details. We looked closely at where you usually look to find the main idea of paragraphs, and then we transferred this to our writing skills by practicing writing paragraphs with one main idea and descriptive supporting details. We then looked at syllables and how to identify which syllables are stressed and how to separate words. Our last day was spent reviewing verb tenses and how to match nouns with their correct verb tenses. Next week, we will finish up our theme by taking our Reading Theme Test.

WordMasters:

We have finished our study of the first twelve WordMaster words. We spent this week playing some games with our words to help reinforce them. We also looked at some of the connections between the words including synonyms, antonyms and similar meanings. Because this takes the place of Wordly Wise and spelling, we will take our vocabulary quiz covering the last 13 words on February 16th and our spelling quiz February 17th. The BIG WordMasters challenge will be on Friday, February 17th 2012.

Writing:

We started a new project this week, writing Friendly Letters. This is an important skill, as many tests, including the MAP test, ask students to write friendly letters as part of the assessments. We reviewed the five main parts to a friendly letter and then practiced the grammatical side of letter writing, remembering where to correctly place commas and which words are capitalized. With a partner, the students worked on a computer program that helped them set up their friendly letters. This was their practice letters, and by next week, they will be writing their own friendly letters to the upcoming fifth graders.

Math:

After reviewing what we have learned so far about fractions, we learned and applied the commutative, distributive and associative properties of fractions. We also learned how to solve open sentences involving proper fractions. The students understood quickly that the denominators must be the same in order to solve for the variable. Lastly, we learned how to change fractions to percents and percents back into fractions. We played a fun game called *In Between* to help us memorize the most common fractions, such as $1/6$ and $1/8$.

Science with Mrs. Dick:

It was fun getting to know all of the 5th graders this week during Science rotation. We started the Magnetism Unit by participating in several investigations. Students found that magnets attract certain materials, such as iron and steel and that magnets have north and south poles. Fifth graders also used iron filings to observe magnetic force fields. Did you know that the Earth is a giant magnet? Earth's center is made up mostly of iron. As the Earth spins, it magnetizes the iron making it a huge magnet. Even the Earth has a magnetic North and South pole. This is what makes a compass work. How fun! Next week, we will continue learning about magnets. This unit will then lead into the Electricity Unit! Students are very excited to build the famous "Fifth Grade Electricity Projects." Be on the lookout for more project information in the near future.

Social Studies:

In Chapter 9, fifth graders are learning about Colonial Williamsburg. The boys pretended that they attended the College of William and Mary. The boys were well behaved and absolutely quite while using ink and a toothpick to write the "Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation." The girls pretended they attended a dame school and learned to sew. Next, we were off to the Shoemaker's Shop where we learned how shoes were ordered. At the Raleigh Tavern, we played a game of "The Royall and Most Pleasant Game of the Goose." Next week, we will visit the Governor's Palace, Slave Quarters at Carter's Grove Plantation, and Bruton Parish Church. Students enjoy this chapter, as it is very interactive.