**First Graders are Fantastic!**

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**Look at all we’ve learned! –**

**Pictures:** <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3s_OUk45AJ0bjBxdDVlZXJrU2c&usp=sharing>

**Math**

It’s May already! Where has the TIME gone! This week students worked on their time telling skills. We studied many aspects of time, with a focus on reading analog clocks. Students learned that there are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, and 24 hours in a day. Our objective for students this unit was to become comfortable with the hour hand and minute hand. We used students’ knowledge of fractions to help them recognize half hours and quarter hours. Students worked on specific language such as “\_\_o’clock,” “half past\_\_,” “quarter ‘til \_\_\_,” and “quarter after\_\_\_.” We spent a lot of time focusing on where the hour hand is located in comparison to the hour it is representing when the minute hand is on the 12, 3, 6, and 9.

In school we explored our daily schedule to find patterns and things that happen at the same time every day, such as morning meeting at 8:10am, PE at 8:30am, and lunch at 11:30 am. At home, you can continue the learning child by helping having them look at the clock at important moments throughout the day such as when they wake up, have dinner, and go to bed. If students create a schedule of what times they did certain things on the weekend, I would love to see it on Monday!

Next week we will begin our money unit, and this week we had the perfect introduction! Second grade just finished their money unit, and we were lucky enough to attend the “Sullivan Shopping Mall,” where our students were given 5 dollars to spend on items around the “mall.” First graders selected what they wanted from the second graders’ shops, and second grade had to give them correct change back after our students made their purchase with a five dollar bill. My favorite quote of the day was “Why can’t we just use a credit card?!” I know personally I am horrible about carrying cash! This week when you are out running errands, use cash so students can see transactions between you and cashiers! You can also set up pretend shops at home! Seeing dollars and coins in the real world will help them become excited for our unit next week! Also, using real money as opposed to fake money helps students understand what coins and dollars feel like. If you have any extra change lying around the house, we would love to use it for our money unit!

**Readers Workshop and Writers Workshop**

We like poetry,

Yes we do!

We like poetry,

How about you?!

This week students focused on rhyming poems. During readers workshop we concentrated on how our voices flow with rhythm when reading poems that rhyme. We also discussed different rhyming patterns that poets use such as ababab and aabbaabb. During writers workshop students brainstormed various rhyming words (word families), and incorporated those words into their own poems. Students’ favorite activity was creating what I call “Rhyme Time Flower Power” poems. Students thought of one word to begin with, and then added rhyming words on petals to make their flower grow! While at the dinner table tonight, have one person come up with a word, and see how many times you can go around the table with each person saying a rhyming word!

**Field Trip**

 Students absolutely loved our field trip this week! Students loved seeing the drummers dance around the stage, and the hit of the morning was when the Japanese dog came out to take on the dragon! If you have time, check out some of the pictures and videos on google drive!

**Science**

 Color, texture, luster, hardness, weight – these are some of the attributes of rocks students studied in science this week! Students were especially fond of the hardness tests we performed which allowed students to scrape and dig into rocks with objects such as screws. They were amazed at how soft some rocks are! Students learned that rocks are made of minerals, and the combination of different minerals give rocks unique properties! Students were also amazed to learn that there is a layer of the earth that consists of fiery liquid! No signs of growth from our seeds yet, but students are very hopeful and love checking on them every day to check for any progress.

**Social Studies**

 Students continued to learn about the American flag this week. We began by reading a biography about Betsy Ross’ life. She began sewing at a young age and would create clothes for her 16 brothers and sisters! Betsy Ross as a hard worker, which paid off when General Washington came to her to ask for her advice on his initial design on the American flag. Betsy Ross explained a 5 pointed star is easier to sew than a 6 pointed star, and that she believed a flag in the shape of a rectangle would fly better in the wind compared to a square flag. As a class, we also discussed why some sources, such as PebbleGo, say that Betsy Ross may have sewed the first American flag, but may not have designed it. After our discussion, students completed their own flags for their countries they designed. Students enjoyed coming up with symbols and stories about their countries.

**Important Dates –**

Tuesday, May 6th – Curriculum Preview Night for Lower School at 5:30pm. Come visit our good friends Amanda Sullivan and Evie Hinrichs, the second grade teachers, to learn more about next year!

Friday, May 9th – Moms & Manicures in the 1st grade classrooms at 2pm.

Thursday, May 15 – CSPO General Meeting at 6pm

Friday, May 16 – CSOV Golf Tournament at 11:30am

Wednesday, May 21st – Lower School Parent Coffee at 8:15am

Friday, May 23rd – Grandparents and Special Friends Day!

Friday, June 6th – Last Day of School! Noon dismissal.