



## Child Chat Week of 4/23



*We have been very busy during the start of spring in room 18. We have...*

- ✓ Practiced the **reading strategies** of backing up and rereading, making a movie in our minds, summarizing, making predictions, visualizing and asking questions to check for understanding as we read. We have been reading a lot using books in our individual book boxes, our guided reading books and poetry, waterfall reading and in class read alouds. Our story comprehension and word decoding is really improving! Can you see a difference in your voracious reader? ☺
- ✓ Practiced identifying and recording story elements using a **story map**.
- ✓ Made many words with our daily **Fundations** practice that include: 2 and 3 letter blends, digraphs, suffixes s/ed/ing, all the glued sounds and magic e! We know how to identify a closed syllable (one vowel and ends in a consonant) and a *v-e* syllable (contains a vowel and a silent e). We are now working on spelling and marking two syllable words that contain both syllable types. It is amazing how these little spelling minds have grown so BIG!
- ✓ Learned there are many different ways to start a piece of writing. They are called **leads**. The most common lead types are: **Onomatopoeia, Snapshot, Dialog, Action** and **Flashback**. We have been trying to capture our reader's attention with some more interesting sentences.
- ✓ Written **spring poems**. With partners, we practiced using descriptive language to describe spring... in the voice of spring itself! Our story typers are now publishing them for display!
- ✓ Continued to practice putting **punctuation and capitalization** into our daily writing. The children are great at editing my work on the smartboard. Now they are working on hearing their voices stop in their own writing so they know where to put the punctuation!
- ✓ Made numbers using the base ten blocks and learned about **place value**. We have talked about the "tens" and "ones" places, compared numbers using the greater than and less than symbols and ordered numbers to 100. We are now adding bigger numbers (like  $26 + 4$ ) and are looking for strategies to help us add them based on what we know about place value.
- ✓ Discovered the wild world of **weather**! We learned what *air* can do, cloud types, the parts of the water cycle and the types of precipitation! We wrapped it all up with fabulous research reports on some wild weather that turned into the movies you saw from our Digital Learning Time.
- ✓ Began our study of **living organisms**. We have learned that some things are living and some are nonliving. We have learned that all living things: grow and change, move on their own and reproduce. Living things all need to have: air, food and water. We have begun researching mammals and will soon discuss their habitats. We will learn what those habitats have to help our mammals survive. We will also review life cycles and watch them in action with our own planted living things! It is a HUGE unit and always one of the first grade favorites!
- ✓ Learned in **social studies** that the world is full of bodies of water and landforms. We have started learning the names of the more common ones as well as the names of the oceans and continents. We are also learning to read maps. Thank you to all the families who reached out to friends and family. We have received MANY postcards and will start mapping them next week!
- ✓ Practiced coding in **Digital Learning** using both the PCs and the Ipad.

**Upcoming topics: Soon we will be creating maps, using a compass, building habitats, writing more poetry, publishing stories, exploring geometry and more!**

**You will see all of our hard work at Open House Night June 7<sup>th</sup>!**