



# Mrs. Shafer's Shenanigans

A publication of McMillan Elementary

## Math, Reading, & Writing

In writing this week, students published their stories and shared them with their group. While sharing, students were able to sit in the author's chair, read their stories, and show their pictures. Students were then able to ask the author questions. See my blog for some photos (mrsshaffer.weebly.com). Our next unit will be studying the author Jonathan London and writing stories in his style, as well as other authors' styles.

In reading workshop, students have been continuing to learn about their characters. We also spent a few days practicing our retelling. Students worked with their partner. Partner 1 would retell what happened in their story—including: who, what, where, when, and why. They also made sure to include what happened at the beginning, middle, and end. While partner 1 was retelling, partner 2 was listening carefully, sitting knee-to-knee and watching the other person as they spoke. When the retell was finished, partner 2 then asked questions that began with "Why would...?" and "Would you...?" This gets partners thinking about their characters and about what happened in the story. Students then flip-flopped and partner 2 retold while partner 1 listened and asked questions. We spent two days on this skill, since retelling, listening, speaking, and working with partners is a vital part of

the 2nd grade curriculum.

In math, we finished up our unit on place value by taking an assessment. I was looking to see if students understood the difference between place and value, if students could compare 3-digit numbers, and to see if students could explain their thinking in writing. That last part is what we have the most difficulty with—putting our thinking into words on paper. We will continue working on that skill all year. I am keeping these assessments at school. We began a new measurement unit on Wednesday. Students used 1-inch segments of paper to measure items in the classroom. Then we glued those segments end-to-end to create a ruler. They discovered it was much easier to use the ruler than it was to measure using individual units. We will be working with non-standard units before we move on to centimeters, inches, feet, and yards.

In science, we talked about water and how it is used in the home. We created a graph using the responses from the homework sent home. Students could compare how many more students used water for drinking compared to using it for washing a car—as well as other comparisons.

### Word Wall Words of the Week

before or wash been

## Other News

### Halloween Party

Our Halloween party will be on Oct. 31 around 11:00ish. We will be eating snacks first, then walking in the parade.

10:53—Students return from gym and get costumes on.

11:00ish—Snack time!

11:30ish—We will tag onto the end of the parade after it goes through our room.

11:50ish—Costumes off and get ready to go.

12:00—Dismissal

We were fortunate to have a visit from Dr. Marcia McEvoy on Thursday. She talked to classes about how to deal with students who are annoying and mean—as well as what the difference is between annoying and mean behaviors. Students had a chance to act out different situations so if it ever happened to them, they would know what to do. The strategy that students felt was most helpful dealt with annoying behavior. They were to follow these 3 steps.

1. "That's bothering me. Please stop." (wait 5 sec. or say "thank you.")
2. "That's bothering me. Please stop." (wait 5 sec. or say "thank you")
3. "That's bothering me. Stop or I'll report it. (tell mom, dad, or teacher.)"

## Reeths-Puffer Schools

Volume 17, Issue 8

October 24, 2014

### Special Dates to Remember:

- © Oct. 31—Half Day—parties in AM
- © Nov. 3—Adopt-a-Reader training for students
- © Nov. 5—Guest Teacher (meeting)
- © Nov. 11—Adopt-a-Reader Begins
- © Nov. 25—Music Begins
- © Nov. 26-30—Thanksgiving Break
- © Dec. 5 - Children's Theatre Production @ H.S.



Remember to return both library books on Wednesday!

Reading logs are due on Fridays.