



Mrs. Shafer's Shenanigans

A publication of McMillan Elementary

Math, Reading, & Writing

In writing workshop, we wrapped up our short unit on revision. Students worked on using insertion tools (carets ^ and sticky notes) to add details to their stories. One detail we focused on was making sure to include the characters' actions. What did they do with their feet, hands, and face? Did they *go* to the park, or *walk*? Did they make a snowball or roll a snowball with their hands? Was the character happy or did they have a huge smile on their face? The smallest detail, like changing "went" to "drove" makes a huge difference in a story. A second detail we focused on was using "time" words such as: first, next, finally, suddenly, in the morning, one day, earlier, after, then, etc. These time words help the reader to understand the story better. It paints a timeline of the character's actions.

In reading, we are continuing to read informational text. Students practiced retelling what they learned with partners. When retelling, they used words like: first, next, one thing, another thing. This was a challenging lesson and is something we will continue to work on throughout the year.

In math, we spent 2 days working with fact families. Students had 2 stacks of blocks that they combined. They may have had 4 yellow blocks and 5 black blocks. When they combined them and added it up, they had one tower of 9 blocks—so $4+5=9$. They then spun their blocks around to make a turn-around fact: $5+4=9$. Then if they took their 5 black blocks away, they would have the equation $9-5=4$. They put their tower back together and then took away the 4 yellow blocks: $9-4=5$. These 4 equations are called a fact family. Students then made a Fact Family Book containing 3 different pages of fact families, including word problems. We spent another 2 days working with a 120 chart and adding and subtracting by 10s and 1s.

We are beginning a social studies unit on maps and directions. Students learned about a compass and the directions N, S, E, W. Ask them about our fun 4-directions game!

Word Wall Words of the Week

gave fast pull both

Reeths-Puffer Schools

Volume 17, Issue 14

December 12, 2014

Special Dates to Remember:

- ☺ Dec. 19—X-mas Parties (2:30) & Last Day
- ☺ Dec. 19—Pajama Day!
- ☺ Jan. 5—School Resumes
- ☺ Jan. 19—No School
- ☺ Feb. 13-16—Mid Winter Break
- ☺ May 5—Field Trip to Camp Pandalouan

Other News

Help! Our classroom had a large Grinch stuffed animal that has vanished. POOF! If he somehow hitched a ride home in your child's backpack, would you please send him back to school? Thank you!

If you signed up to bring in an item(s) for gingerbread houses, please have them to school by Wednesday December 17th.



Remember to return both library books on Wednesdays!

Reading logs are due on Fridays.