



KM News

Week of March 9-13

This week we finished our Ezra Jack Keats Author study. We read a book called Pet Show, and talked about who did or did not have pets. We brainstormed a list of animals that could be pets and then the kids worked with partners to draw one of these animals. We used the animal posters to vote for the animal we thought would be the best pet. The winner was.... A puppy! The final book that we read by E.J. Keats was A Whistle For Willie, which is about the boy named Peter learning how to whistle. We played a "Mystery Whistler" game in group, which the kids loved. One child was secretly picked to hide and make a whistling or other sound, and then the class tried to guess who it was. As a culminating activity, the kids voted on their favorite E.J. Keats by putting a sticker on a graph. We talked about graphs and then the kids shared their observations about the data.

Special Events: This week we had so much fun watching the fourth grade Regions Fair. Those kids who had siblings in the show were so excited to see their brother or sister perform! We also enjoyed walking around the fourth grade classrooms to view all of their wonderful projects.

We had our second Art Appreciation lesson this week. The kids looked at artwork by a local artist named Deborah Friedman. We enjoyed looking at her fun cat paintings and her illustration of a bluebird. Afterward, the kids created their own animal illustrations, using colored pencils. Thank you Dave, Kristina and Jody for presenting this lesson!

Open Circle: This week our discussion focused on how to handle situations when you are angry. We reviewed the calming down strategies and talked about using words to express why you are angry. The kids should practice these strategies at home! ☺

Stay Days: This week we had Writer's Workshop on Stay Days, which was very productive. The kids continue to work on writing sequenced stories with pictures to match the text. Some kids are ready to work on developing more details in their writing, using more descriptive words. This week we read a book called Ook The Book, which has funny rhymes that focus on a different word families. After the story, we pulled letters out of Echo's nest (he is our owlet that helps us with phonemic awareness skills). The kids helped me unscramble to letters to build different 3 letter words. After this fun activity, the kids used magnetic letters to build their own words and recorded them.

During math on stay days, the kids solved some counting problems about our class. They first demonstrated different ways to count the number of noses in our group, and drew pictures of their own eyes to help us count our eyes. We came up with several strategies for counting eyes: "count by twos", "count by ones," "add two columns of eyes (6+6=12)," and "add

by twos". We brainstormed what other body parts would add up to 12 in our group: ears, hands, feet, arms, etc..

Later in the week the kids practiced sorting/categorizing. They each drew self portraits and then brainstormed ways to sort the pictures, such as: hair color, eye color, clothing, We played "What's My Rule?" with these pictures too. The kids had to figure out how I sorted the pictures into two groups. This is a fun game to play at home with a variety of materials!

Questions Of The Week:

- What letters did you work on in your handwriting book this week? (e,i, and reviewed others.)
- What did you notice about Deborah Friedman's artwork?
- Which EJ Keats story was your favorite?
- What fishy wall story did you finish this week (our version of 1 fish, 2 fish, red fish, blue fish..)
- Can you count by twos? How many feet are in our family? How can we figure it out? How many toes in all ?
- What story are you working on during Writer's Workshop? Can we brainstorm other good topics together?