

01/15/2021

Dear Parents of Gold Door,

This week we focused on the essential question, "How do living things change as they grow?" To explore this essential question, we read *A Grand Old Tree* where the students were able to learn about different tree parts. We also read *The Pine Tree*, a tale about a small pine tree that wanted to grow into an enormous pine tree so that he can be made into different things such as a boat or a window seat, and *From a Seed To a Tree* where we learned how an Apple Tree develops. While reading these stories, we learned the vocabulary words develop, amazing, enormous, imagine, and content. This week we also learned more about the letter Ee. We reviewed the sound of the letter, blended words with the short /e/ sound, and sorted words that had the /e/ sound in the beginning or in the middle of the word. To further assist the students in blending sounds, the students used sound boxes to place a counter in each soundbox to represent each sound in a word. This strategy really assists our visual and kinesthetic learners. The sight word introduced this week was are. Throughout the week, the students read and produced sentences with the word are as well as previously learned sight words such as my. For writing, the students learned about writing an opinion sentence about a story they have read in school or at home. First, the students organized their writing by creating a chart or list of books they have read. They then chose a book to write a draft on their opinion about the book and later finalized their draft.

This week for math, the students learned about operations and practiced their algebraic thinking skills in Chapter 6 of the Go Math Curriculum. Although this was a short 2-week chapter, the students learned a lot. At the beginning of this chapter, the students were introduced to subtraction by using the term take away. The students then began solving subtraction problems using the minus symbol. After, the students practiced solving subtraction word problems and producing their own subtraction sentences. Finally, the students practiced solving both addition and subtraction problems. Next week we will begin Chapter 7 where the students will be introduced to the numbers 11-13.

For science, the students learned all about gravity this week. To explore this concept, the students played parachute to safety where they had to make a parachute holding items and use gravity with drop the parachute without the items falling out. The students also experimented with dropping different items of various weights to see which item will fall faster. This week for science the students also had the opportunity to visit the garden and assist Mrs. Davis in planting new plants! Gold Door planted cabbage! The students will be attending the garden about three times a week to check on our plants and make sure they are watered.

As a reminder, next week there is no school on Monday! Friday will also be a teacher planning day as it marks the end of the grading period so attendance is optional! Also, please be sure your child makes it to school by 8:20! Instruction begins promptly at 8:20 so when students arrive late, they miss instruction and become a distraction for the rest of the students.

As always, we hope you have an amazing long weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. Vanessa and Ms. Adriana