

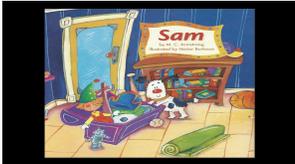
The Rooney Review

September 8th, 2017



Whew! This has been a busy, short week! First graders are trying their best to learn the new routines. They have been working hard at showing us what they know (through some quick baseline math, writing, and reading assessments), so we can get to the business of learning new things! You may have noticed that they are a bit fatigued from all the brain work and moving they are doing in first grade!

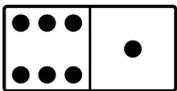
ELA/Reading: This week we began reading stories in our Anthology. Our story this week was about Sam and Tam. One was a boy and one was a dog. We looked at picture clues to figure out who Sam was and who Tam was! While the story was very easy to many, we are working on reading in small groups and the remainder of the students are working on independent "word work tubs" in the classroom.



Writing: This week first graders wrote an informational story, a narrative story and an opinion story. We will be working with these three genres of writing (in addition to some surprise others...) this school year, and these stories gave me a baseline of where each student is in her/his writing. We will begin information story writing next week.

Phonics: First graders reviewed the same phonics letter/sound cards they learned in Kindergarten. We are continuing to use those same cards and sounds to reinforce the skills learned last year. We brainstormed words that rhymed with an, at, and am and generated a number of words that followed each spelling pattern. Our sight words we reviewed this week were *a*, *see*, *green*, *I*.

Math: This week we worked with ways to make 6 and 7. For example, we looked at dominoes and "read" the numbers we saw on each side. Then first graders said that those two numbers equaled ___ in all. Another game we played was with mini animals. We put a number in a row (say 7) and then when the students closed their eyes, I put a few animals in my hand. The students then had to guess how many I was holding in my hand. Each student got a chance to play the game and had the rest of the group guess how many were in his/her hand.



Weather/Calendar: Every day first graders record today's number on their individual calendars. The class meteorologist then tells what the weather and temperature are, and each student records this information on their weather graph.



Social Studies: We completed some classroom rules that all first graders agreed to follow. These have been typed up, illustrated, signed and are posted in our room for all to see. I'm quite impressed. Take a look:

Keep hands, feet and body to yourself.

Be respectful to people.

Use materials correctly and safely.

Take care of the school.

First graders listened to the Steven Kellogg story about Johnny Appleseed, and they watched a quick Brain Pop video about the tall tale character. First graders created their own Johnny Appleseed illustrations, and worked together on creating a Timeline of Johnny Appleseed's life. Stay tuned for more details about timelines (coming next week!)



Responsive Classroom: "Break" room:

Our classroom has a "break" spot for children to use throughout the day. While we call it the break room, it is actually just a designated chair in the classroom. Students can give me a hand signal (sign language for break) if they need to remove themselves from the learning activity. The "expectations" that are posted at the break room are to 1: signal for break, 2: sit on break room chair, 3: take calming breaths to refocus, and 4: return to learning. The focus of this chair is for those that are not ready for learning (wiggly, talking to a peer, missing Mom, daydreaming, etc) .

Taking a break allows students an opportunity to get their minds and bodies ready for learning again. This is not a time-out chair (not used as a negative consequence). It is not a "naughty" chair. This space provides students an opportunity to self regulate and get themselves back on the learning track. I have used the space myself to model for the children what to do when you need a break. Most children have taken advantage of this refocusing "break" room, and have come back to the learning activity ready to go! As always, if you would like to read more about Responsive Classroom, please check their website: www.responsiveclassroom.org, or feel free to reach out and ask questions to myself or Mr. Veneto.

Other News:

✉ Happy Birthday, Drew!

✉ Welcome Bella, who will be joining us daily for specialist time .

-Mrs. Rooney :)