aWESOme news

WHITON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 18, 2015

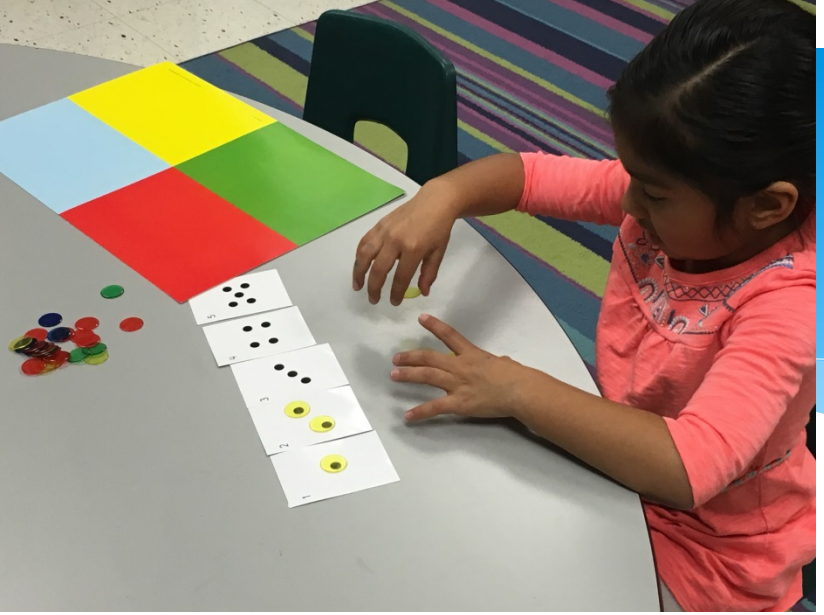
From the Desks of Mrs. Shober & Mr. Fornaro

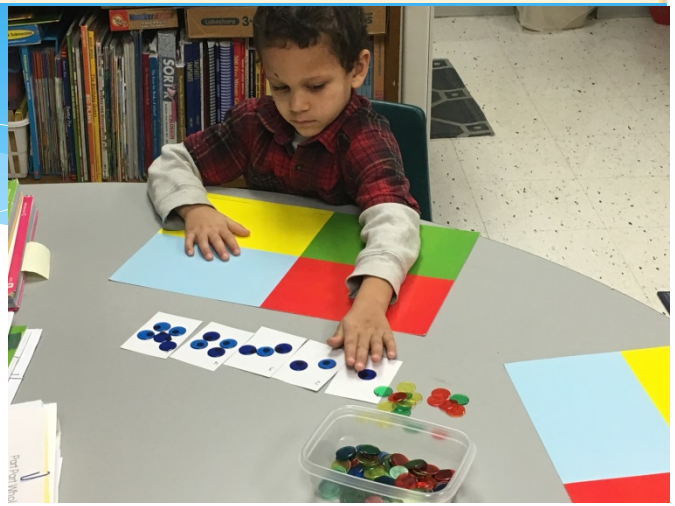
* Dates to Remember:
  * 12.22 – BCMS Orchestra Performance
  * 12.23 - Single Session Day (1:10 dismissal)
  * 12.24-1.1 - School Closed – Winter Recess
  * 1.4 – School Reopens
  * 1.6. - Harlem Wizards
  * 1.18 – No School Staff In-Service
  * 1.22 – Character Building Assembly

* We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Winter Recess. See you next year!

Mrs. Cecchini's Instructional Support

Math Instructional Support has a new program this year!
It's called "Number Worlds," a program designed to help struggling students accelerate math success with a proven approach.
The program is aligned to the Common Core Standards with a concentration on specific standards meant to effectively accelerate mathematical understanding.
The lesson components consist of: a warm up activity, the student engagement, reflection and assessment.

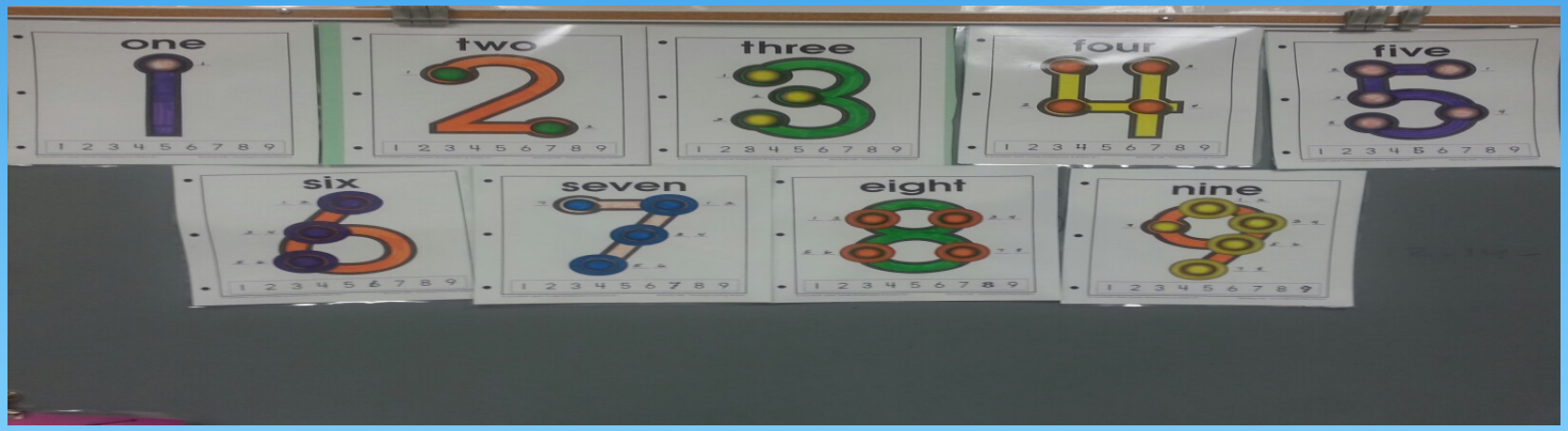




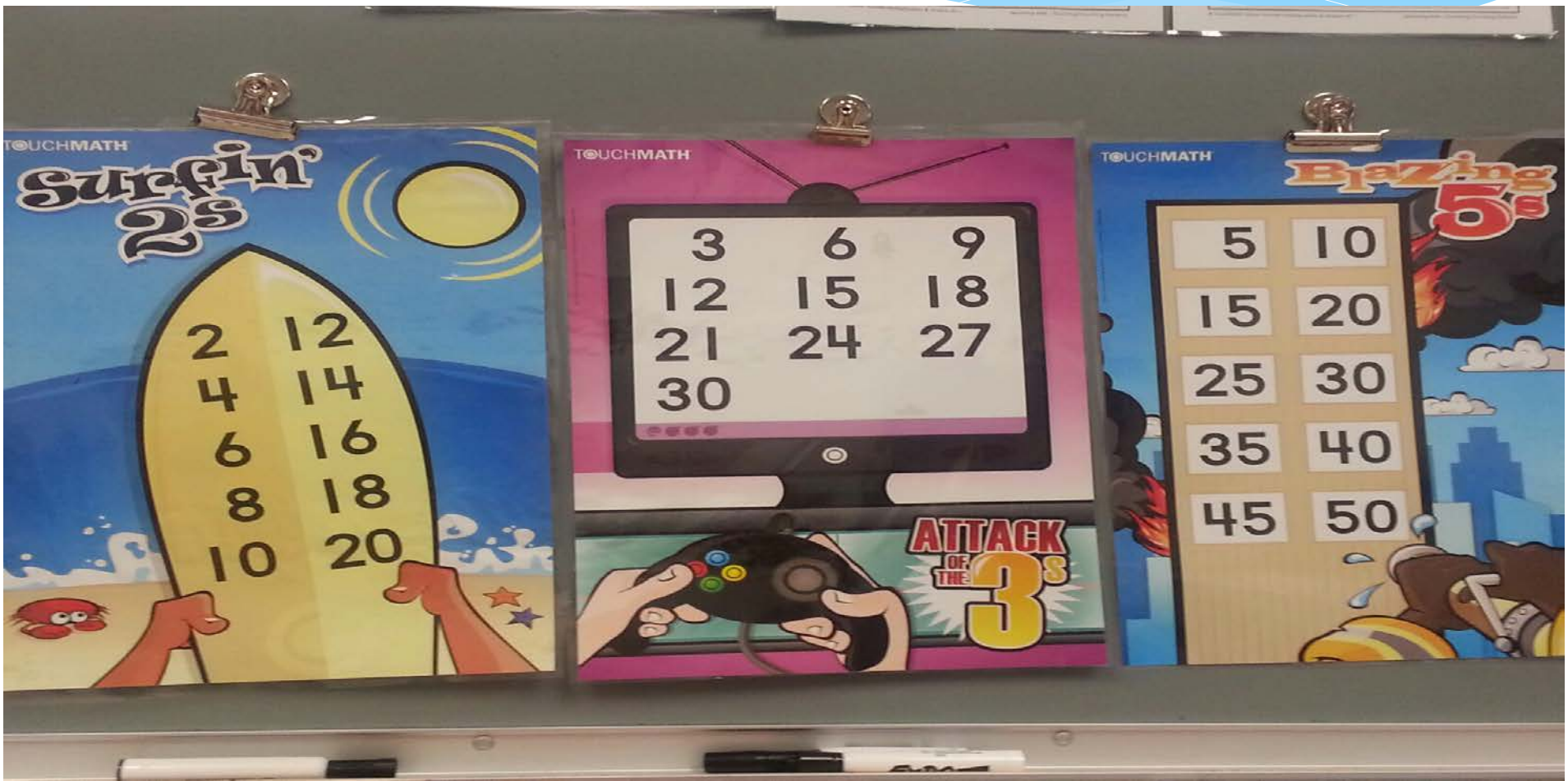
* The warm up activity is a quick activity related to a real-world topic that prepares thinking for the student engagement portion.
* The student engagement portion utilizes fun games and activities to help students develop and practice key math concepts.
* In the reflection portion, students use discussion and writing activities to reinforce their understanding of math concepts.
* Informal and formal assessments provide ongoing progress monitoring to help teachers track student's progress and give extra practice to students who may need it.
* Here are some kindergarten and first grade students enjoying some of the activities in the Number World program!

Ms. Hall's 3rd Grade Multiplication and Division Wizards

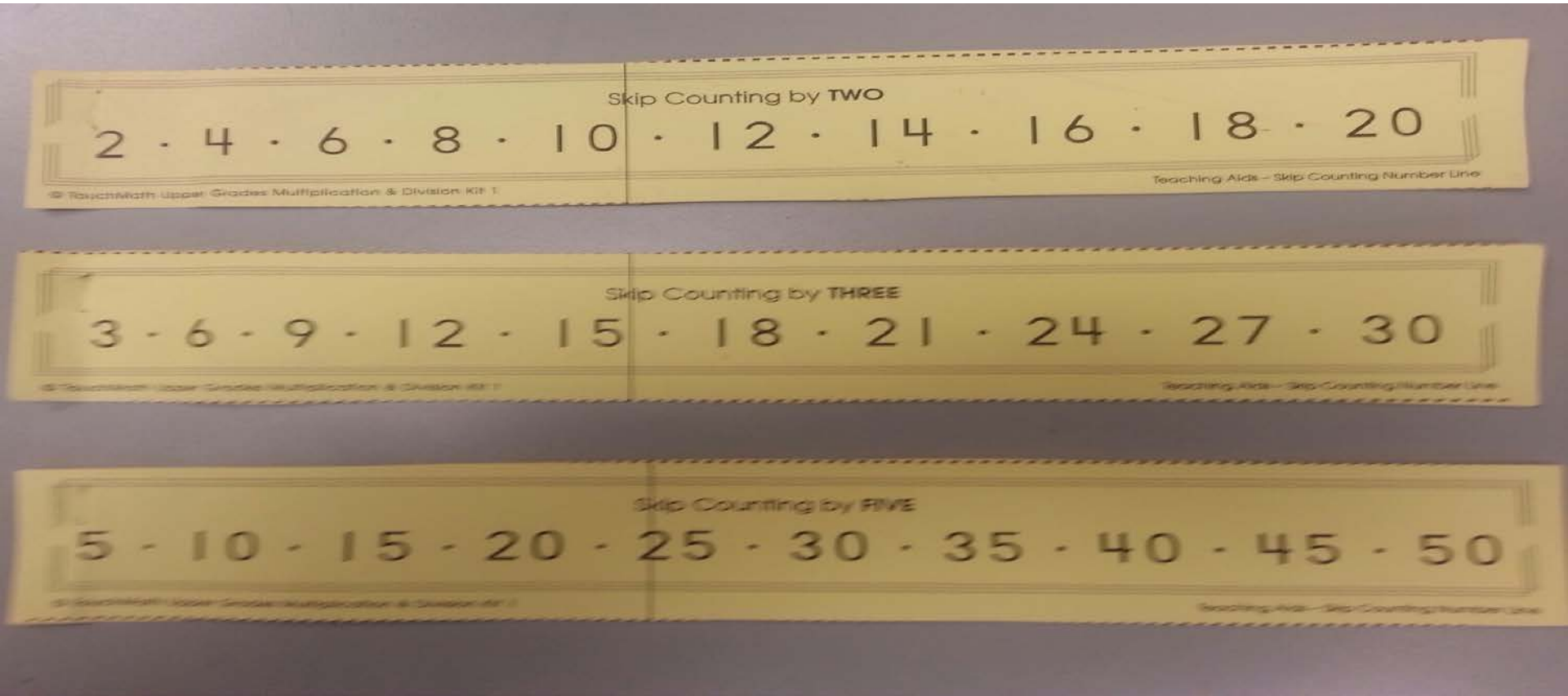
TouchPoint Posters



Skip Counting Posters



Skip Counting Numbers

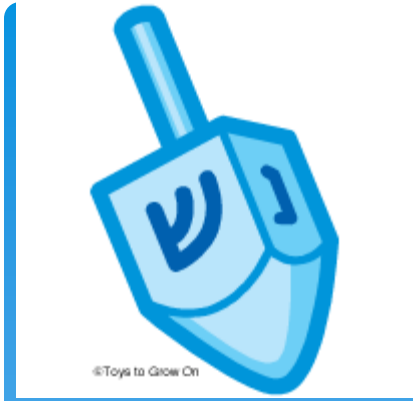


* With third grade being a huge year for learning multiplication and division facts… our class is using Touchmath strategies to help us learn our facts easier. We learn to look for patterns through skip counting, singing jingles, using skip counting number lines, and using touch points on numerals to compute our answers. We have been quite successful with learning how to multiply and divide by 2s, 3s and 5s so far and next, we will take on counting by 4s!

Physical Education
December 2015

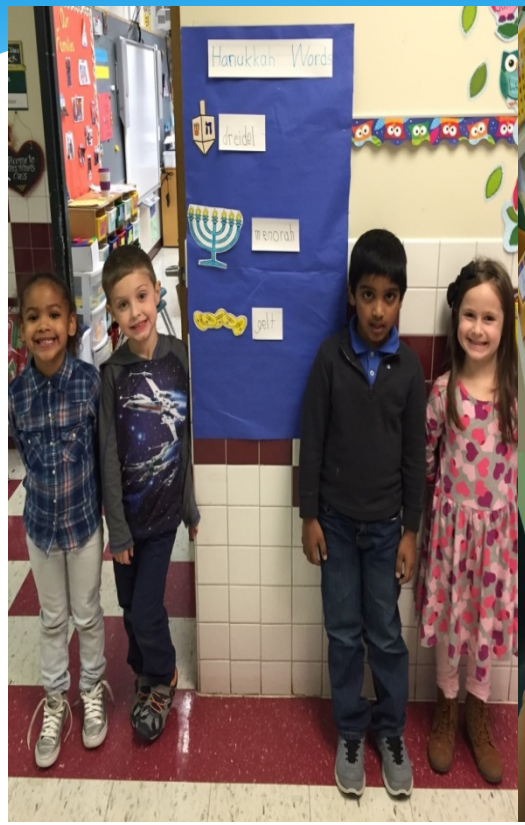
This past month third graders worked on improving their fitness levels through various fitness activities. Students worked on increasing their aerobic endurance, speed and agility, flexibility, and core strength. Next month we will work on team building activities.

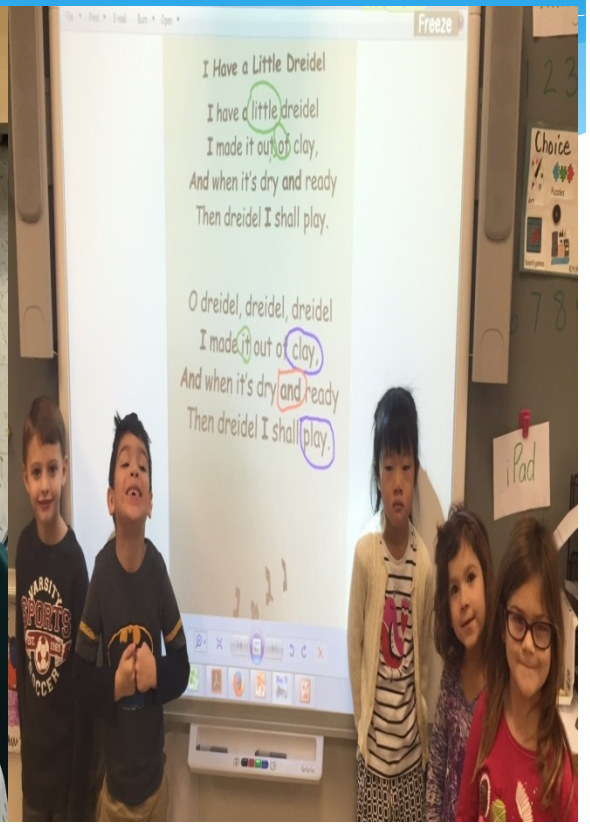
Younger grades will continue to participate in throwing and catching activities. Students have used bean bags, balls, scarves and other objects to test their catching abilities. Next month we'll move on to team building activities!



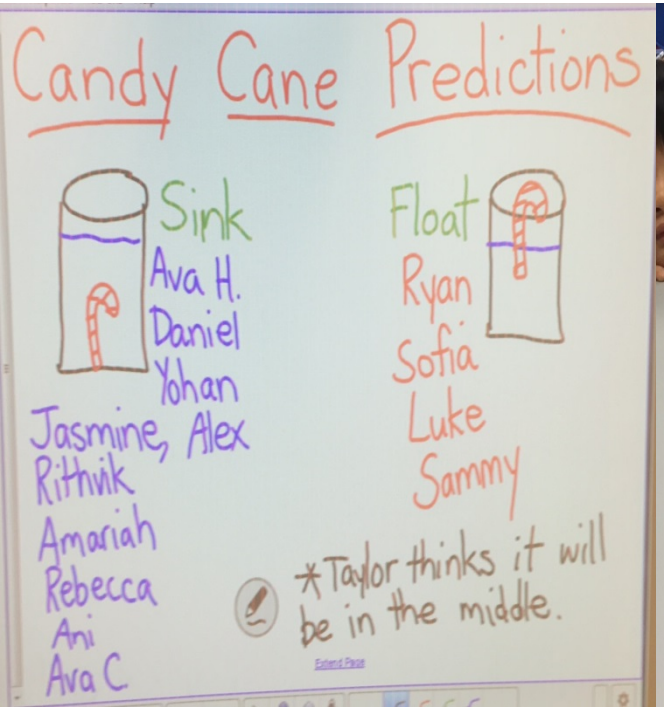
The excitement of the holidays has certainly filled the Kindergarten halls this month! In Mrs. Bitner's class, we have been busy with three themes: Gingerbread, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

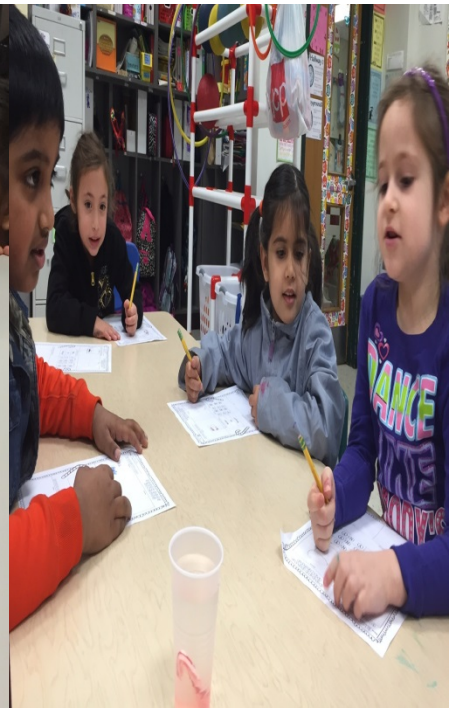
We read several Gingerbread stories, including the classic *Gingerbread Man* as well as some variations (*The Gingerbread Girl* and *The Gingerbread Girl Goes Animal Crackers*). Students are very inspired by this theme, making gingerbread people and their own gingerbread stories!





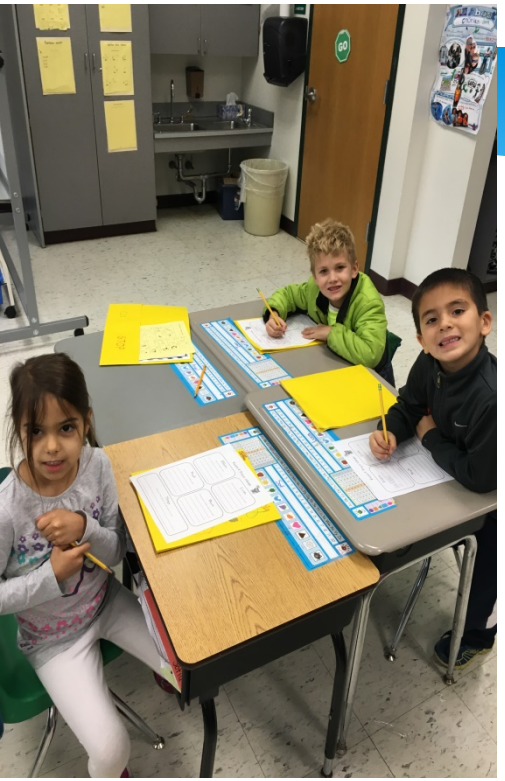
This week, we learned about a holiday that some of the children in our class celebrate- Hanukkah. We read stories, made an interactive writing chart to help us remember some Hanukkah vocabulary words, sang the dreidel song, and played math games.

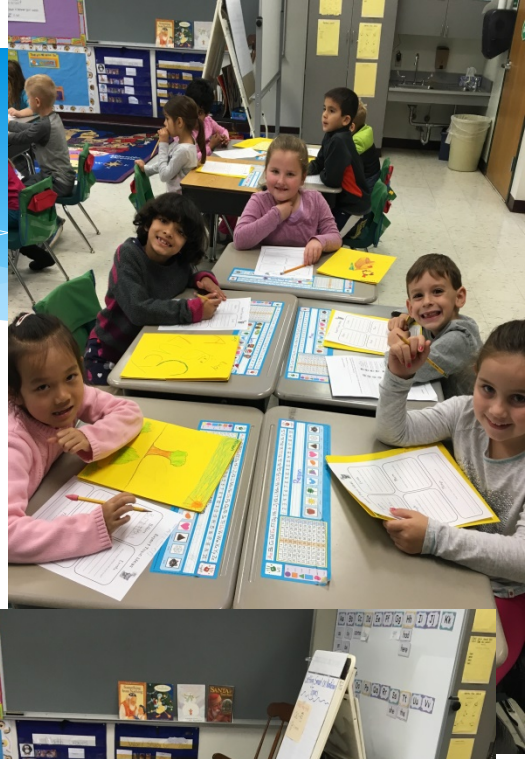




We have also incorporated some of the symbols of Christmas into our learning. We did candy cane science where the children predicted if a candy cane would sink or float. It did sink! Then we predicted if a candy cane would dissolve in water, oil, and vinegar. The candy canes dissolved the most in water and vinegar, but not at all in oil. It was fun to see what happens, record results, and learn that it's ok to be wrong when we make guesses.

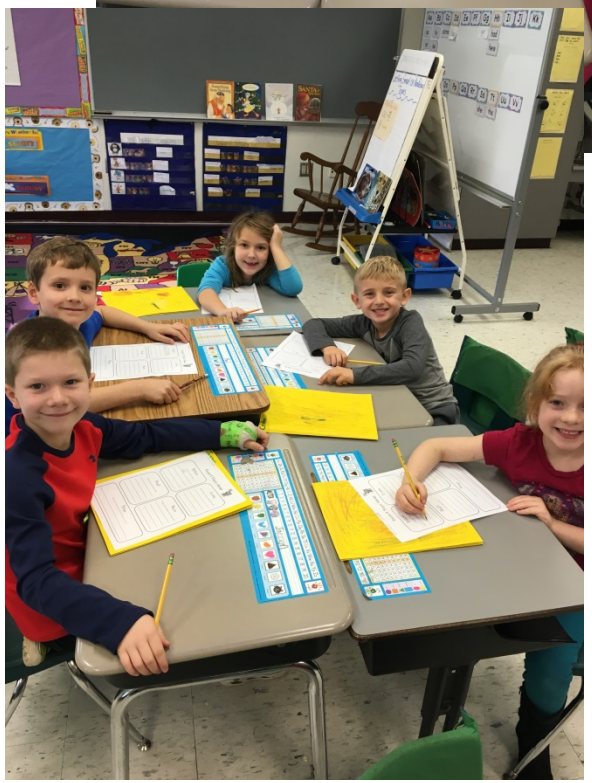
We look forward to learning more about Kwanza too! Regardless of the holidays you celebrate, this is the time of year to appreciate what you have and be with those you love.





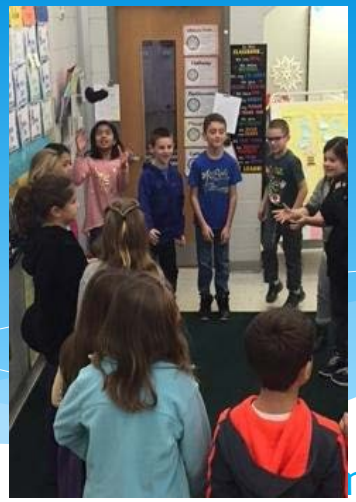
Mr. Levinski's Class

This week our class kicked off our "All-About" writing unit. We created an "All About" book collaboratively as a class during our interactive writing block. My students are really excited to become teachers in this nonfiction writing unit.



Morning Meeting

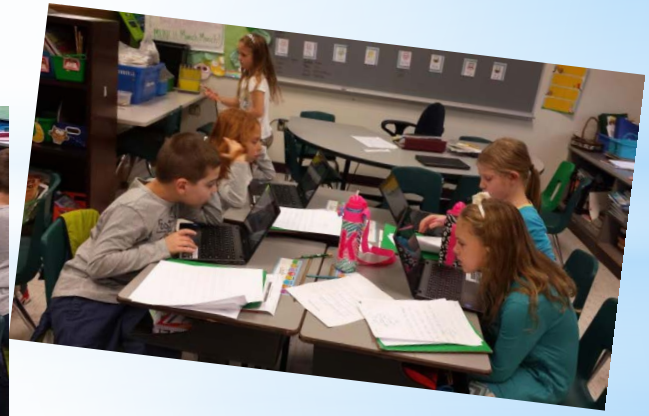
sets the tone for the day in Mrs. Janiec and Zelnick's class



- Laughter begins the transition from home to school each day in our n.
- Morning Meeting is one component of a Responsive Classroom. Students think it is fun, but is it so much more. We practice social skills, public speaking and creating community. Everyone participates regardless of academic ability.
- Today our greeting was memory ball toss. In this greeting, students practice eye contact and recall. Jessica shared details about the wax mold she made in her 4H club. The students responded with questions and comments. Our message told about events in the day and needed some edits with punctuation and verb tenses. Lastly, we had time for a group activity; Popcorn Count. Students needed to show impulse control and keen observation skills as one at a time they popped up and called out the next number in a pattern. If two or more people popped, we started all over again. We reached 18 today!

Second Grade Researchers Hard at Work!

To become experts on a topic during our non-fiction writing unit, students were able to research their topic and add their findings into their writing. All of the students were excited to use the Chromebooks and kid-friendly search engines to find information. Come on down to room C-12 to read our amazing non-fiction books!



Mrs. Forsyth's Class