



The Haggard Herald



September 29, 2017

A Look Back At Our Month

In reading, the class spent time discussing the characteristics of each genre and we sorted books into their proper genres. During the month, we learned two strategies to better remember what they've read. We used the stop-think-paraphrase (STP) model and the Five Finger Retell (characters, setting, problem, events, & ending) model with fictional texts. At the end of this week, students chose an unfamiliar fairytale and completed a five-finger graphic organizer on it.

In writing, we discussed the two main parts of a complete sentence. Students identified the subject (who/what) and the predicate (action/state of being) before they transformed fragments into complete sentences. We also learned about the different ways to fix run-on sentences by using a semicolon, adding a comma along with a conjunction, and breaking the run-on into two separate sentences.

In math, the class learned how to use variety of multiplication strategies to find the answers (products) for their basic facts. The students created arrays and area models to break apart larger facts into smaller portions. In addition, we played several math games to increase our speed and accuracy with these facts.

In social studies, students reviewed the seven continents and five oceans. We compared maps to globes before listing the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Announcements:

No School: Teacher In-Service
10/6/17

Grandparents' Program:
10/13/17 (I apologize for the misprint
on last week's homework checklist)

No School (MEA):
10/18/17 - 10/20/17

Goblin Parade: 10/31/17

**Thank you to all who
donated to our Donor's
Choose site!**

Our items have arrived and the kids love their flexible seating options. The balance balls, stadium chairs, and stools make learning comfortable and so much more fun!

Don't forget to visit our webpage for
classroom pictures and cool links.
<http://thaggard.weebly.com>

A Sneak Peak at October . . .

Reading: Identify & use text features, use questioning techniques with nonfiction texts

Spelling: Individual spelling words continue - Please practice sorts for 5 min. nightly (Mon.-Thurs.)

Writing: Use progressive verbs (changing past to present to future tenses), writing own narrative stories

Math: Wrap up multiplication unit on basic facts, begin multi-digit multiplication & early division

Social Studies: Discuss types of maps, create own map, and begin the Midwest region of U.S.

Dear Parents,

I am excited to be able to offer your student an opportunity to be a part of a flexible seating classroom this year!



What is flexible seating?

A classroom with flexible seating looks different from a traditional classroom that uses only desks and chairs. Items such as pillows, stools, bouncy balls, standing tables, etc. are used to allow students to have options for where they can best work and learn. The goal of flexible seating is to give students choice and to help them find the type of seating that allows them to achieve their best learning. Their best learning spot may change throughout the day based on their needs or the work that they're being asked to do, so students will have the option of changing work spots when necessary.

How will flexible seating be introduced?

At the beginning of the school year, I invite students to join with me to create a list of guidelines/rules for using the different seating options. I spend time teaching them what it should look like when they're using the seats and how to best take care of them. I then allow students the opportunity to try out the different options in our classroom and determine where they work best. They will be able to evaluate the choices available in order to choose the best spot for them to complete the task they are being asked to complete.

There are many different options for seating, but you will notice that all options still allow for a workspace for students. Almost all of the seating choices are still placed at tables and individual desks are still available for any student that shows me that they need a bit more structure (or less choice).

I have seen many benefits since implementing flexible seating. It has empowered our kids, increased student engagement and has helped to prepare students for the real world. My students in the past have loved the opportunity to have a choice about their seating and I hope your child will too!