

FIRST GRADE FLIER

Growing and Learning

Enthusiasm and curiosity has filled the first-grade classroom as first-grade science students investigated the world around them. To enhance the study of animals this quarter, students were able to observe the life cycle of the butterfly first-hand in the classroom. Students anticipated the emergence of butterflies after watching the amazing transformation of these insects. Life science is always appealing to first-grade students, and the study of butterflies involves the intertwined relationships of organisms and their environment. Teaching students about butterflies provides the opportunity to discuss conservation, pollination, animal migration, and defense mechanisms in the insect world. As students more closely observe the world around them, they begin to realize that other living creatures are a big part of their world. There is something special about looking at a child's face when a butterfly is released into nature. Westminster eighth-graders still remember this experience!

Math class also offers opportunities to think about the world, and students have begun studying real-life word problems each day. Parents can reinforce these skills at home by allowing children to help cook (measure, estimate, understand temperatures), build with blocks and Legos, solve puzzles, and pay attention to prices and money at the grocery store. These important experiences help children to make the necessary connections in math as they learn more complex material.

As geography week approaches, first-graders will prepare for this curricular celebration by learning about some of the national parks in Washington, DC. A national

park ranger will present information about several monuments and national parks to the students in order to prepare the class for the first field trip of the year to the National Mall. How much more interesting a place becomes when you've already learned something about it!



It is a delight to watch the first-graders grow as readers as they learn new sound spellings and sight words every day! This group also loves to build phonemic awareness and spelling skills on their individual dry erase boards. In social studies, the students completed a creative writing assignment based on the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Did you know that there are future doctors, teachers, shop owners, and fighter pilots in the class? The first-grade students are also eagerly anticipating a hands-on look at the importance of voting and being responsible citizens while learning about a presidential election! This will truly be an election year for them to remember as they learn about voting rights, why elections are held, how to fill out a voter registration card, and more.

Thank you, first-graders, for all of your hard work, smiles, and enthusiasm that have made this first quarter one to remember!



The release of the butterflies creates much excitement.



First-grade students making new discoveries.

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about." ~ Angela Schwindt