

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
From: Terri Vasquez, Principal
Date: April 14, 2014
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

ENROLLMENT:

AM Kindergarten: 63	2 nd Grade: 102
ELL Kindergarten (AM): 12	3 rd Grade: 93
PM Kindergarten: 34	4 th Grade: 104
1 st Grade: 77	Special Day (COSSA): 13

OTTO OTTER: On March 3rd, Janice Benedict presented the Otto Otter Canal Safety Program to all third grade students. Janice began with discussion about water safety, showed a short video, and then engaged students in more discussion about the dangers of canals and other bodies of water. The grade level was split into two groups, each groups session was a half hour. Students were very eager to share what they knew and seemed to really understand the significance of making sound choices when around waterways. All were presented with a sticker, coloring book, and certificate of completion for the course.

DEER FLAT REFUGE: On March 12th, the Deer Flat Refuge presented a program to 2nd grade students. The presenter talked about what a wildlife refuge is, and why it is important for animals to have a safe place to live. The children talked about what animals needed to survive like water, food, and shelter, and how the wildlife refuge would provide those things for them. They discussed the relationship between prey and predator and how prey defended itself, often using camouflage. The children looked at pictures of animals using camouflage and the type of camouflage they used. Some animals used color and patterns to hide, while others used a behavior, such as a possum playing dead, to trick predators. Next, the children were able to pet some animal pelts as the facilitator brought them by, and determine by color and feel which habitat it would likely live in based on its coloration. They also guessed what animal it belonged to including a deer, a raccoon, and a skunk.

BOOK FAIR: The PTO held a book fair during conferences. They made \$4803.17 to put toward projects of their choice.

ISEE MODULE/ASSESSMENT: There were 6 elementary teachers who attended a ½ day module about assessment and depth of knowledge as it pertains to the SBAC tests. It was very informative and helpful. All 4th grade teachers have attended and will be able to have productive conversations and plan summative, interim, and formative assessments for their students that reflect a greater depth of knowledge. For example, Level 1 is recall and reproduction and Level 2 is working with skills and concepts, but we want our students to feel comfortable in Level 3 (short-term strategic thinking) and Level 4 (extended strategic thinking) where they evaluate, draw conclusions, debate, question, formulate, plan, and create.

P/T CONFERENCES: We had a 90% turnout for conferences on March 19 & 20.

LEARNING HAPPENS AT HES:



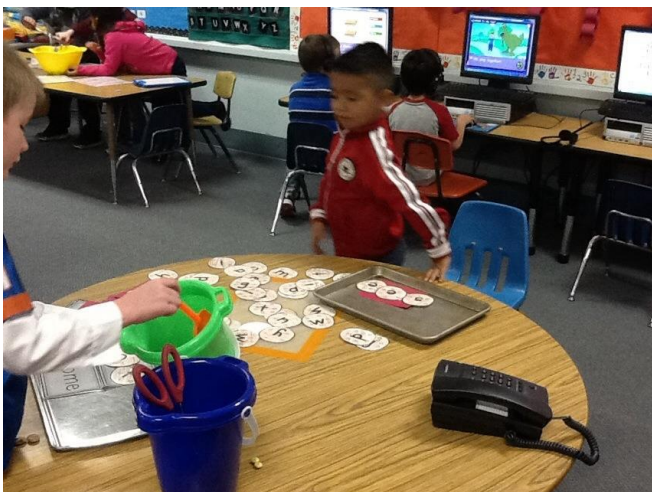
Counting beads in Kindergarten



Equivalent fractions in 3rd grade



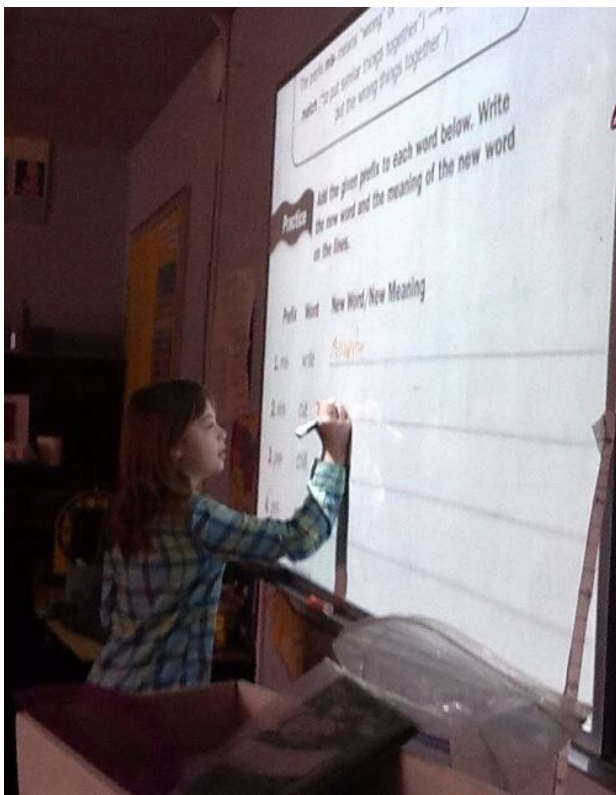
Making line graphs using insect measurements and M&M graphs in 2nd grade



Making words in Kindergarten



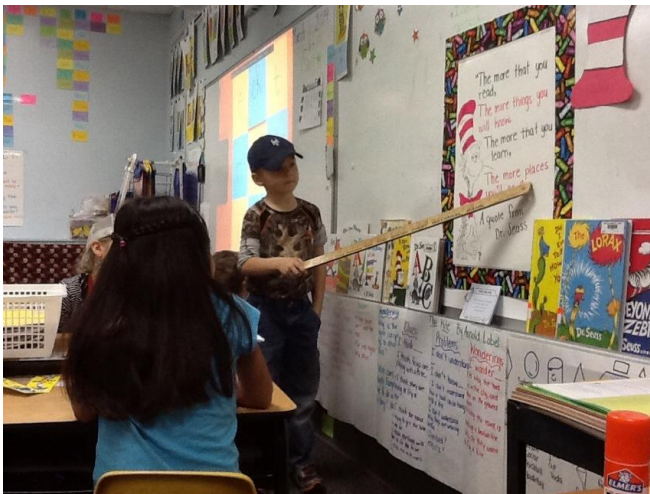
Measuring potatoes with small "worms" in 1st grade



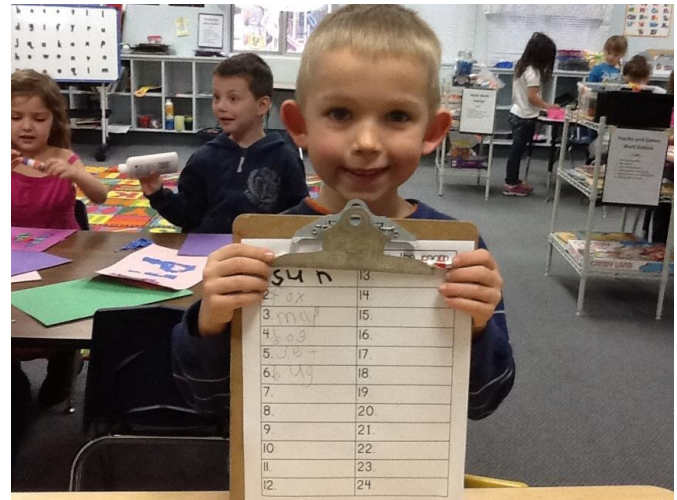
Using prefixes to create new words in 3rd grade



Reading poetry to friends in 4th grade



Reading poems in 1st grade



Writing new words in Kindergarten...isn't he proud?

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 25 – YMCA Splash! Presentation for 3rd grade

May 7 – 4th grade visit to HMS



Creating pictographs in 2nd grade