

January 11, 2019

Dear Room 6 Parents,

Happy 2019! I know our class missed each other over break, but we jumped right back in this week. Please see below for some highlights.

- On Monday we started a new drawing technique, pencil sketching. We used pencil sketches printed offline to make our own drawings. We will continue creating pencil sketches throughout our new unit. I have been so impressed with everyone's perseverance this week. I often heard "Pencil sketches are hard!" but no one has given up on trying each time we've pulled out our pencils! After creating our sketches, we also wrote a story about what we thought was happening in the picture.
- From now through March, we will be reading books that have been nominated for the Monarch Award. After reading the book, we give it a grade (from one star to five stars). In March, we will turn in all of our votes and will receive a copy of the winning book. Already this has been a great way to be exposed to a variety of writing styles and also to practice analyzing and discussing stories. Monday's Monarch book was *Claymates* by Dev Petty and illustrated by Lauren Eldridge. After the book, we made our own clay creations to match the book.



- On Tuesday we learned a new math card game, pyramid. Like solitaire, this game can be played alone or with a partner. The goal is to practice addition from 1-10. We continued pencil sketches on Tuesday after watching the silent film, *Viaje a la Luna* by George Melies. Students created a sketch as a summary of the film we saw. We talked about the differences in this film and the movies we watch today. We will continue to watch and discuss silent films as it relates to our new unit. On Tuesday we also tried our first popsicle stick challenge. Popsicle stick challenges have been very popular this week! I have asked your kids to challenge you to Friday's popsicle stick challenge to see if you are able to solve it (attached below). These challenges are great for problem solving, building perseverance, and visual/spatial skills. The final highlight of Tuesday was welcoming Cornflake back to the classroom! So much fun!



- On Wednesday we read a new Monarch book, *Bob, Not Bob!* by Audrey Vernick and Liz Garton Scanlon. This one had us all laughing! We gave it five stars :)! We also started our new novel, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. The book is filled with pencil sketches by Selznick. We made our own sketch as a summary of the first chapter and then chose one of his to recreate ourselves. Wednesday's cold weather meant we had mostly indoor recess. The kids built impressive towers with magna-tiles and put on a puppet show complete with sound, light, sound effects, and narration!



- On Thursday we continued with our popsicle stick challenges, playing pyramid, and reading/sketching *Hugo*. We also played a board game that got us all doing sit ups, planks, ski jumps, etc. Even with the cold weather this week, we all got our exercise! We were also so excited to read our new library books after a few weeks without new books.



- Today we began creating maps of France (the location of *Hugo*). We also practiced singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" ...or should I say "Tête, Épaules, Genoux, et Orteils"! Learning the song helped us label pictures of ourselves in French.



**Today's popsicle stick challenge (you can substitute with toothpicks). See if you and your family can find a solution this weekend! The goal is to make the fish swim in the opposite direction :)

