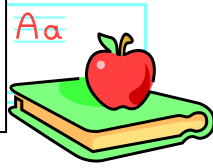


Feynman School Weekly News



Mrs. Gold and Ms. Struzzi's Class

A Peek at Our Week 10/24/11



Column Investigation



We love learning Spanish with Ms. Struzzi!

At the start of the week, students were introduced to three different question words. My goal was to get them to start thinking about the practicality of Spanish and how we can begin our questions by using the new question words we just learned. Since we are still expanding our vocabulary, I have been encouraging them to use the Spanish question word with the rest in English. Your students did a great job applying these new words to their questions to both the teachers and each other.

¿Cuándo? - When?

¿Qué? - What?

¿Por qué? - Why?

For the rest of the week, some students continued to study their colors, while others were working on noun-adjective agreement (or making them "stay friends"). For example, students learned that if we say "La falda negro," those words aren't friends. In order for them to stay friends, they need to end in the same vowel, "La falda negra."

Weekly Highlights

The week began by testing the strength of the domes we had built last week. We compared the strength of a dome with square faces and one with triangular faces. We applied what we knew about triangles to predict that the dome with the triangular faces would be stronger. We placed books on top of both types of domes and the one with triangular faces could hold one book while the domes with the square faces immediately began to turn, twist and "squish" under the weight of one book. We also tested the strength of columns in the shape of cylinders and connected what we knew about the strength and shape of bubbles from our bubble investigations to help us reason why the column in the cylinder shape was strong enough to hold the weight of two to three books. We discussed tension that occurs when there is a pushing and pulling force happening at the same time. Now the students are presented with a bridge building challenge. They are working in architecture teams to create a blueprint for a bridge that can hold the weight of a toy car that needs to get across a canyon that is 40cm wide. Good luck teams!

In math, students continue to investigate shapes by focusing on their unique characteristics rather than on size and color. They have also been constructing composite shapes by putting smaller shapes together. Some students have been exploring types of lines and angles by constructing them and searching around the room for examples.

In reading, students are working on many skills: letter-sound recognition; sight word recognition; asking questions before, during and after reading a text; making predictions based on background knowledge; identifying the lesson an author is trying to teach through a story; and identifying rhyming words.

In Writer's Workshop we continue to focus on spicing up our writing with adjectives and synonyms. Students are also going back to edit their work to make sure that they have a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence.

Upcoming Events

November 2: No Aftercare (see school calendar)

November 3 & 4: No School Professional Development Conference (see school calendar)

November 7: Fieldtrip to Interplan

Construction Supplies Needed:

- empty cereal boxes or any empty cardboard box from a food product
- paper towel rolls
- toilet paper rolls
- tissue boxes
- shoe boxes

Anything else that may be interesting to build with.