

Our Class Bunny

Moose

- ▶ Our class bunny is named Moose. He is named after Mike Moustakas, a popular KC Royals baseball player. He is a Holland Lop bunny. Moose was introduced to the class after 6 weeks of school when he was just 4 months old.

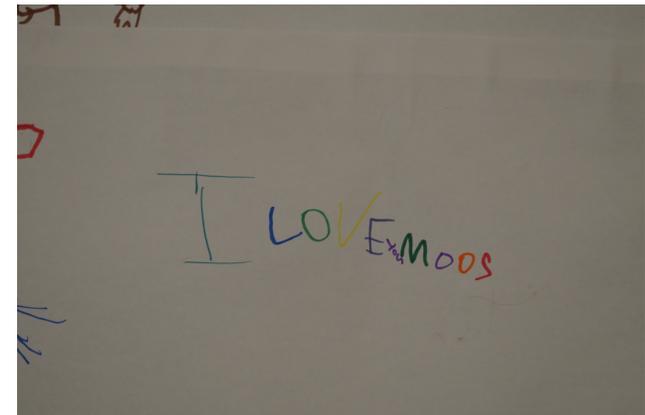
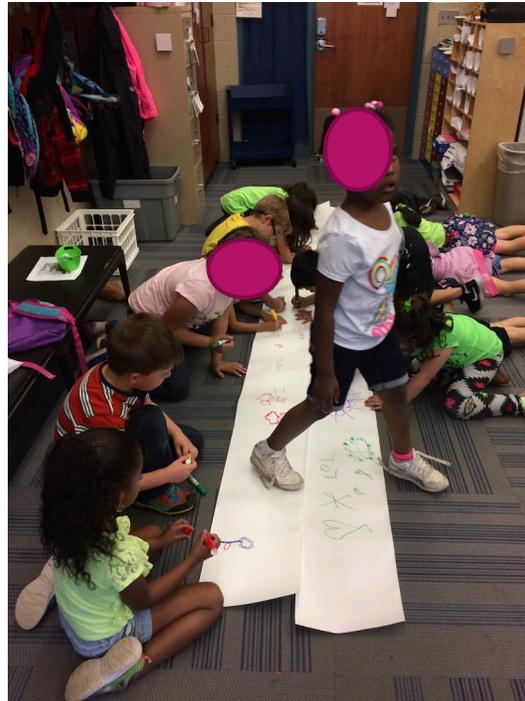
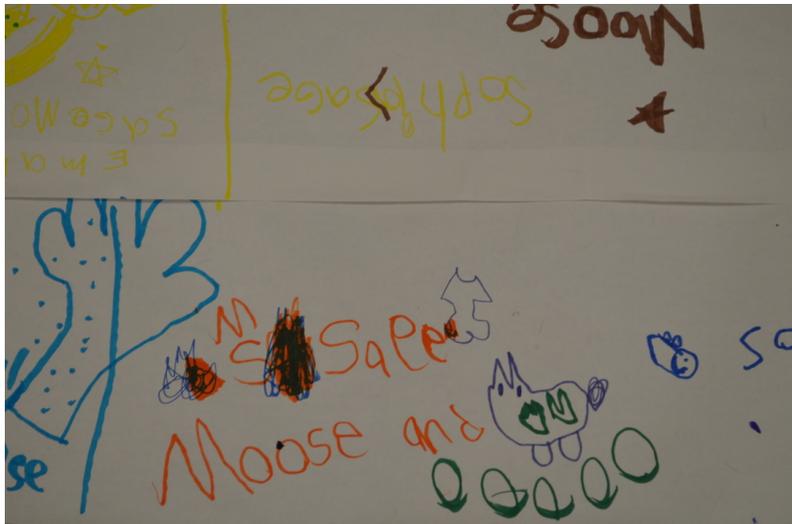


The Power of Moose

- ▶ Moose quickly became a beloved part of our classroom. All the students would say hello to him in the morning. He was a part of our "calm down spot" where students could go when they needed a break. He was integrated into so many of our lessons directly or indirectly. He was often an inspiration for their writing and included in a majority of their drawings! This continued from October–March. In March my daughter brought her bunny, Sage, to visit the class. The kids displayed the same gentleness and love for her bunny as they do Moose. The next day during our class meeting one of the kindergartners asked if Moose and Sage could have kits (proper use of vocabulary (yay)! Another student innocently proclaimed "No, they aren't married". After a very brief discussion, and the kids very adorably asking Moose, it was decided they should get married.

The wedding preparation

- ▶ Much preparation went into planning the wedding. The students decorated the room, including the aisle for the bunnies to hop down.



The wedding

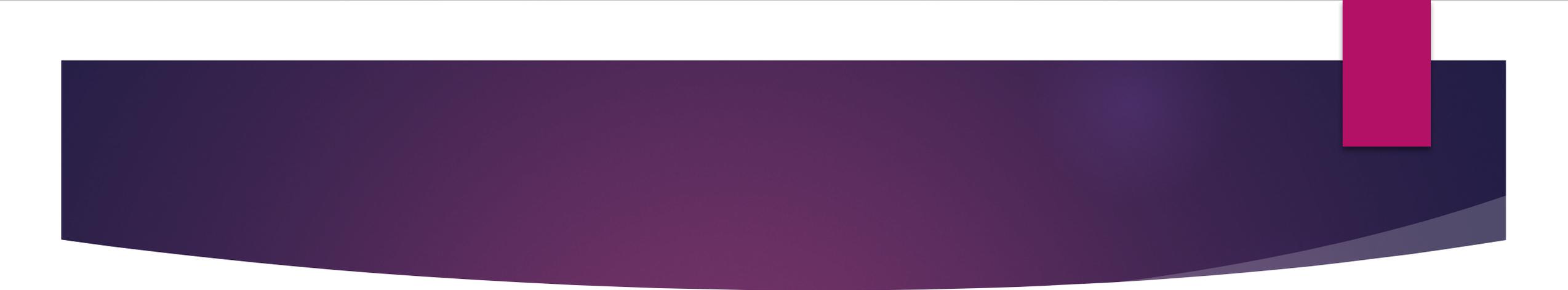
- ▶ The music teacher played the ukulele and sang “I can’t help falling in love with you” for the wedding.



The reception

- ▶ The kids enjoyed carrot cake, topped with chocolate bunnies (bride and groom), and carrot cake muffins. We listened and danced to bunny themed songs including The Way the Bunny Hops, Bunny Hokey Pokey and Little Bunny Foo Foo.



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- ▶ I have never had a class pet in all of my years of teaching and after this year, I do not want to ever teach again without one! Moose was such a huge benefit to our class. We did have one allergy in my class but it was to the hay so we just fed him pellets during the day and hay at night and removed the hay and vacuumed his cage every the morning before they arrived.

Lesson Plans

Prior to introducing the rabbit to the class which was done once class routines were in place (about a month after school started):

Circle Time:

- ▶ Do you have a pet rabbit?
- ▶ Have you ever had a rabbit for a pet?
- ▶ Have you held a rabbit before?
- ▶ Can you describe what a rabbit looks like?
- ▶ What do rabbits eat?
- ▶ How do rabbits move?
- ▶ How do you tell if a rabbit is happy? Do you have any pets at home? How do you tell if they are happy?
- ▶ Can rabbits be different colors? If so, which ones?
- ▶ These are important questions to ask and discuss with your students in order to find out what they may already know about rabbits and rabbit care, so you can then build on what they know. Theories and predictions are an important part of reading/ comprehension/ and language learning.

Lesson Plans

Math: Objective: I can use +, -, and = to write number sentences for addition and subtraction stories.

Addition and Subtraction: Get out treats (fruit, veggie sticks or store bought). Put 1 treat out, then add 2 more treats, how many treats do we have now. Have the students write the number sentence on a white board. Same concept with subtraction. We would even have Moose eat the treats and we would subtract as he ate.

*Look at students white boards to see if they are getting them correct. Rotate around and help those needing more help.

Lesson Plans

Writing: 1st Objective: Students will be able to share their opinion through writing and drawing. 2nd Objective: Students will be able to use their writing to persuade others.

- ▶ Write opinion stories; A great introduction to opinion writing. Lead the students in a discussion about writing opinion and using the word because to justify their opinion.
- ▶ Have the students write an opinion piece on if they would like to have a rabbit as a class pet.
- ▶ Have the students write an opinion piece about how they think Moose would feel any given situation. (for example: How would Moose feel if someone pulled his ears, how would he feel if the class was super loud etc).
- ▶ Lead the students in a discussion about persuasive stories. Have the students write a persuasive story stating why Moose should get married, why Moose should be a class pet, why Moose should get a treat every day etc.

Lesson Plans

Language Arts: 1st Objective: Improve vocabulary knowledge. 2nd Objective: Ask/answer simple recall questions.

- ▶ Read “Rabbits” by Anita Ganeri.
- ▶ Introduce vocabulary words: (pellets, floppy, kit, active, burrow, nibble).

pellets: A small rounded mass of food,

floppy: Hanging in a loose way

kit: A baby rabbit

active: Always doing something; full of energy

burrow: a hole or tunnel dug by certain animals for use as a hiding place or home

nibble: To eat small bites

- ▶ Ask essential questions:
 1. Who is the author? What is their job?
 2. What is one FACT we heard from the book?

Lesson Plans

Social/Emotional: Objective: Students will be able to model/explain the 3 R's.

- ▶ Discuss with the class our schoolwide expectations as a part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS).
- ▶ The 3 R's. Ready (to learn), Responsible, and Respectful.
- ▶ What does that look like: in the hallway? Bathroom? Playground? Cafeteria? Classroom?
- ▶ How are we responsible and respectful with/to Moose?