November 30th, 2105

I worked quite a bit one on one with 3 different students using flashcards today. These flashcards are meant to help them with reading. As I did this I was wondering a lot about their effectiveness. One thing I realized is that students may not comprehend the meaning of the words they are reading from these flashcards. To assist with this, I decided to put some of the harder words or words with multiple meanings into a sentence. This puts the word in context and may help them put a meaning to a word that otherwise seems meaningless. Although I plan on using a variety of reading enhancement activities, I can see the value in using flashcards occasionally, and I hope that my time using flashcards today helped my students.

December 1st, 2015

This afternoon was my observed lesson. It was also a minimum day, so overall the day felt a bit rushed. Teaching two classes at once was a bit difficult, but it was manageable with two other teachers in the classroom. This lesson taught me that doing experiments outside of the classroom may be challenging, but they are worth the effort. I’m glad I was able to see how to share responsibility with another class and teacher as well. This is a good option for lessons that require a lot of setup or need to be done outside of the classroom. It’s great to be able to share responsibilities with co-workers and really work together to give the students what they need and deserve. Once again, I’m grateful to have been able to teach a special lesson today☺

December 2nd 2015

Today we worked on a fun holiday project. I helped the students make stockings out of paper that were then hung in the classroom. Although I really enjoy all of the holiday things my master teacher does, I am a bit disappointed that she does not acknowledge any other holidays besides Christmas. This would be appropriate at a Christian school, but I find it is not a good example of showing diversity in a public school. She has a Christmas tree in the room and places a special marker on the calendar for Christmas, but she does not teach the students about Hanukah or Kwanza. All of the seasonal projects revolve around Christmas. In my opinion, this is very disrespectful. Any student who does not celebrate Christmas is not only left out, but they may feel embarrassed to not celebrate Christmas. In my classroom I plan to read a variety of books about all holidays; whether they are religious holidays or different cultures special holidays. ULV taught me to be sensitive to aspects of education in this way, and I plan to uphold their standards in the future.

December 3rd, 2015

Today I taught a science lesson on motion. I included some fun videos in addition to reading the textbook to really bring the concepts and definitions to life. I think these videos really helped all students comprehend the lesson better, and it was especially helpful for my ELs. We also made a helpful “open the flap” sort of project where students wrote a definition and drew a picture. The work produced showed me that the lesson was successful!

December 4th, 2015

It was a typical Friday today. I did my usual frenzy of grading and organizing and recording tests. I did not teach anything today, but my master teacher kept me quite busy running her errands and prepping materials and copying and such. Once again, I was not able to actually teach today, but I felt the hustle and bustle that teachers have behind the scenes. Not the most fun day, but nonetheless a learning experience.