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| Monday, November 2nd, 2015  Today was a usual Monday. The students worked on a fun group project about spiders. While they did this I graded and organized, as I usually do. I’ve been spending a lot of time getting paperwork and grades ready for parent teacher conferences, so that was what the bulk of my day was spent on once again. A bit boring, but it has to be done. Overall, I spent most of the day doing paperwork while my master teacher taught. | Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015  My master teacher was at a benchmark committee meeting this morning, so the students had a substitute. She always has the same substitute come, so we are all familiar with one another. I was grateful that she let me teach most of the morning. It was an easy morning with just a review math lesson and daily language. My master teacher was done with her meeting a bit before lunch. She put me back to work right away doing more paperwork and grading for conferences. So, the rest of my day was spent doing grading and paperwork once again. |
| Wednesday, November 4th, 2015  It was a fairly uneventful day today. I did a lot of work to prepare for conferences once again. I stapled and filed and hole punched and recorded for hours and hours. The students also took Star reading tests. It was interesting to see how they have improved in the past few months. After school I went over our plans for the coming weeks with my master teacher. We also discussed a few ideas for the delivery of my lesson next week. Today I learned that the weeks before conferences are tiring! However, I think it may be less tiring for someone who record grades online. My master teacher does it the old fashioned way. Hopefully it will save me some time to do it electronically in the future! | Thursday, November 3rd, 2015  Today the students wrote about spiders, which has been the focus of their reading this week. The past few days they have been reading articles in groups and taking notes. We weren’t sure how the quality of their work would be, since they don’t usually work in groups like this. I was delighted at the quality of their paragraphs though! The students have obviously learned a lot this week. I saw a lot of fabulous vocabulary in their writing. The pre-write that they used helped a lot also. I have learned that pre-write activities are super important to help students become good writers. We corrected rough drafts today, and the students will complete their final drafts tomorrow. |
| Friday, November 6th, 2015  The first awards ceremony of the year was held this morning. The school has a new awards system this year. In the past, each student received at least one award every year. This year, only six students will receive awards. Although this means less students are recognized, I think it is actually a great change. In the past, getting an award wasn’t really a big deal. Everyone knew they would receive one eventually. Therefore, there wasn’t really any prestige for an award or motivation to earn one. With this new policy, students will know that they really did something well to deserve a reward. My master teacher and I explained this new policy to the students, and some seemed a bit sad. However, I still think this change is positive and I support the school in their new policy. |  |