Hello First Grade Families!

Happy first Friday of April! The kids and I were looking at the calendar for month, and we were totally shocked at how fast the school year has gone, and how little time we have left together. I was, of course, completely heartbroken, and I can already feel the dread approaching regarding the last day of school. The kids are pumped for summer vacation though, even though it is 47 days away (yes, they did the math on that one).

In ELA this week, we started exploring opinions and exploring opinion writing. The students helped write an opinion piece as a class about whether we liked Spring or Winter more, and then they helped me write about who the most special person in my life was. They are learning to state their opinion, give two connected reasons, and then give a concluding sentence. Learning how to do this will help them in opinion writing next year and in all of the years to come. Next week, they will be writing about who the most special person in their life is, and we will continue to write opinion pieces. We also worked on making new words by simply changing the ending letter/sound. You should have seen the amazing work that they did! Students also compared and contrasted Jan Brett’s The Mitten and The Hat. They continue to amaze me with how much they know.

In Math this week, we explored 10 more, 1 more, 10 less, and 1 less. We also started doing our Post Unit 3 CFA’s, and they started to learn how to compare double digit numbers. Students also worked on determining even and odd numbers, counting backwards and forwards, mastering the combinations to 10, and they continuously worked on word problems. It really is amazing at how they use reason and logic to explain their ideas.

In Science we learned about spring weather. We learned how rain happens, what hail is, how a tornado occurs, and what causes a rainbow. We also worked on learning the ideal habitat for Brook Trout, and we documented the changes that our trout had over the week.

Overall, it was another successful, busy, yet fun week! We had a lot of dance parties for brain breaks, enjoyed some great literature, and we were extremely kind to one another this week. I cannot wait to see what we accomplish and learn next week.

Have a great, safe, and fun weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* Field Trip to Stratford Public School on Wednesday, April 8th, 2015
* Report Cards come out on Friday, April 10th, 2015
* I will not be in school on Friday, April 10th, 2015
* There is an early release day on Thursday, April 16th, 2015
* I will not be in school on Thursday, April 16th, 2015