Dear 1st Grade Families,

Well, we have officially finished the first week of school! Can you believe how fast time is flying already? I remember the start of last year, and then the next thing I knew, it was the end of the year. Since there is so much learning, the time just seems to fly by!

This week your student learned about four reading strategies to use. They are called: Check for Understanding, Back Up and Reread, Cross-Checking, and Tune into Interesting Words. These four strategies (and there is one more) will be the basis for many of our ELA lessons. You will hear this language often from your child. I have attached the information about these four strategies, so that you may also start using the language at home with your student. Consistency, practice, and opportunities to talk about these strategies will only help your student become successful lifelong readers!

We also started to learn all of our classroom routines. We learned about cupcakes, cards, and Fuzzy Wuzzies. Students earn a cupcake (a cut out paper cupcake) when they are doing something “totally sweet” such as: helping a friend, being a creative problem solver, sharing, giving compliments, cleaning, making connections, etc. Teachers who catch them being “sweet” will write the reason why, and the cupcakes are posted on the wall to be seen. As of this morning, we had 24 cupcakes! At the end of the week, the cupcakes will be taken down and brought home to be shared. The card system is a simple system that helps students visually see their behaviors and actions. They will receive a yellow card as a first warning that their behaviors are not the expected behavior. An orange card signifies to them that it is their second warning, and a red card is the final warning (consequences such as a small break, pink slip, office, phone call home, etc., may follow depending on the severity of the behavior). Each time a student receives a card, they are asked to go to a table to process with a teacher. They then come back to join the class as soon as possible. The Fuzzy Wuzzy Jar is a fun classroom reward system. Every time the whole class is phenomenal in behaviors and expectations, the whole class receives a Fuzzy Wuzzy in the Fuzzy Wuzzy Jar. When the jar is full, the students get to vote on a realistic whole class award!

Students reviewed the bathroom routine, the entrance routine, the snack routine, and how to walk in the hallway. In fact, this week has been a lot of review, practice, observations, and getting to know one another.

Next week, students will be starting their NWEA testing. Fortunately, our class will be NWEA testing in the computer lab in the morning. Please make sure that your student is well rested, and that they have had breakfast (may it be at home or school). The scores from this NWEA test will be used to create individual goals that will help drive instruction for your student for the rest of the year.

Overall, this week was absolutely amazing, and I cannot wait to continue teaching your student in the year to come. We are certainly going to have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* **There is no school on Friday, August 29th, 2014 and Monday, September 1st, 2014.**
* **Please return all forms** that were given to you on the first day of school back to me **by Thursday, September 4th, 2014.**
* Please fill out the lunch forms and return to me when you receive them (bi-weekly, so the next one will come to you on September 8th).
* Scholastic Book orders are **due on September 26th, 2014**.
* Check out our website: [www.gesgrade1.weebly.com](http://www.gesgrade1.weebly.com)