Hello First Grade Families,

 I hope that you had a great week. We certainly did here in the 1st grade. We were jam-packed full of adventure, learning, reading, and math. In fact, we started learning our new math unit, which has to do with place value. The students love this type of math since it is extremely hands on. It was a quick and different week since we had specials on Monday and on Tuesday we had half a day, but we still got a bunch of learning in.

 In ELA, we are finishing up our learning about Spring. Next up will be Summer and then Fall. What we are focusing on while reading about the seasons is distinguishing the main idea and the details that pertain to each book. It is unbelievable that you can read so many different books and they can all have different facts in them. The kids love comparing and contrasting the books, and they are extremely engaged when they participate in these conversations. We have been working hard on identifying the beginning, ending, and medial sounds in words as well. It is important to emphasis that ending sound in words when talking and reading with your students. It is also important to remind students when reading and writing that every word and syllable has a vowel. We have been working on the short a sound, short e sound, and short o sound. So, if your students are writing, or if you notice an opportunity to emphasis one of those vowels, please do! We also started working on blends. Blends are two or three consonants that are placed together. So, for example, in the word “stop”, the “st” is the blend. You can say it as one, but you can hear the /s/ and the /t/ in it. We have worked on the /sl/ blend and /tr/ blend. If your student is reading to you and you see an chance to talk about a blend, please do that as well!

 In Math, we started working on place value. Students are learning that 27 is also known as 2 tens and 7 ones. They are also learning that 80 is also known as 8 tens and 0 ones. I find it amazing how quickly they are able to pick up this knowledge and apply it. We are really working hard on thinking of numbers as tens and ones. Soon, we will be learning how to add them, draw in base ten drawings, etc. The next unit is all about addition within 100. Can you believe it? Your students are mathematicians, and I absolutely love teaching them math and learning from them.

 We talked about our First President this week as well since it is George Washington’s birthday soon. This led to some great conversation about how cameras were not invited back in George’s day, what a king is, what country we live in, what a president is, the difference between an illustration and a photograph, etc. I find that these Social Studies moments are full of rich conversation and learning. The students are fully engaged and they just want to know everything about a subject. It is a pleasure teaching them not only Social Studies, but also Science! Speaking of Science, we are still monitoring our Trout. They have almost all hatched. If you are ever in the school or around after school, please do come in with your student to see them. It is really amazing to see the development unfold right in front of our eyes.

 All in all, we had a great week. We celebrated the 100th Day of School with some fabulous projects, and we celebrated each other during our little Valentine’s Day celebration. I am looking forward to next week!

 Have a great, safe, and warm weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* Vacation is the week after next!
* Please remember to have students’ dress warmly. We are about to have some more brutally cold weather.