Hello First Grade Families!

 What a short week! I feel like I blinked and the end of the week popped out of nowhere! We have been working hard once again, but really that is nothing new since this class has been working hard all year long.

 This week in ELA, students thought about stories as recipes. We looked at stories as if they had ingredients, and those ingredients were the characters, setting, events in the beginning, middle, and end. They used collaborative discussions at their tables to identify each “ingredient” in the story, Officer Buckle and Gloria, and then we stirred up the ingredients to discover that we made the book! It was a fun process, and it helped students think about stories to something relatable: a recipe. We also continued our practice of collaborative discussions and following the rules of having one with your peers. It was amazing to walk about the room and listen to their conversations and their work, instead of directing their conversations. We also continued our work on blends. Students are now working on identifying “s” blends, “l” blends, and “r” blends. The “r” blends were hard for us because frog has the “fr” sound at the beginning, so it is a blend. But fur is also a word and it only sounds like “fr.” This really brought us back to the discussion that every syllable has to have a vowel, so fur, could not be spelled “fr” since it needs a vowel. Next week, we will be reading multiple version of Cinderella and comparing all of the stories to the different elements using details. Students will also start learn how to write an opinion paper.

 This week in math, students really worked hard on thinking of the 2-digit numbers, such as 37, as 30 + 7 = 37. It was a whole new way of thinking. We also started seeing equations where they looked like this: 37 = 30 +7. Once students mastered this concept of understanding that a two digit number is really addition, we started to learn about how we can take a number and add 10 more, 1 more, and do 10 less and 1 less, quite quickly. It is great to see how these students are taking this information and just internalizing it so quickly. We also worked on identifying evens and odds to 10. Next week we will start comparing 2 digit numbers using logic, drawing 2 digit numbers, and starting to work on using non-standard units of measurement to measure objects.

 Unfortunately due the short week, we did not really delve into social studies or science, but we are a flexible group, and next week we will just make up for it!

 I know that I am certainly excited to see what we learn and accomplish next week because this First Grade class shocks me on a daily basis on how much they have grown and learned this year.

I do hope that you have a great and safe weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* Scholastic book orders are due on Friday, March 27th, 2015
* There is no school tomorrow, Friday, March 20th, 2015