Hello First Grade Families!

Can you believe how fast the year is already flying? We are almost at the end of October. I honestly cannot believe it! The amount of work that the First Graders do in the amount of time we have together makes the time fly right by!

This week in ELA, we have been focusing intensely on retelling a story. We have read some funny stories such as, Mrs. Chicken and the Crocodile and The Boy Who Stuck Out His Tongue. We read these stories together and retold them together! We then broke into groups and rewrote stories that we had already read. Towards the end of this week, students were broken into groups again, and they were read a fable without pictures. Students had to retell the story, identify the events, illustrate the events, and write about those events! This is cumulating into a book for each fable that your student will bring home next week. Students have been working on beginning and ending sounds, and rhyming –at and –an words. We have been focusing on the short “a” vowel sound, and students are learning that every word needs to have a vowel in it to make it a word. Try to challenge your students when you see a short word such as flat, man, dog, cup, etc. Ask them what is the vowel? The more exposure to this concept, and the more they hear about vowels will only help them in remembering what they are! Students are also learning about Read to Someone, which is another component in our Daily 5. Ask your student what EEKK means, and if they say it is what Ms. LaCasse says when she sees a spider, tell them that they are correct, but what does the E and K stand for (haha!)?

In Math, students have been working in groups to complete numerous games and activities that are geared towards: writing different equations that equal a number, addition, counting on, identifying the number of dots in an equation and changing the dots to numbers, finding different combinations to different numbers, finding one more and one less, and working on solving addition word problems with adult assistance! They are doing all of these games while I am doing Post CFA testing on this unit. Next week, we will begin our new math unit, which will be focusing on the same skills, but building fact fluency up to 20! So, be prepared for more subtraction coming your way! Also, some parents have mentioned that they would like extra math practice for their students. I will work on composing some extra math practice worksheets and send them home with your student on Monday or Tuesday of next week. These will not be required to be completed, but if you would like to practice and work on them with your student, please do feel free to do so!

This week we had a couple special events occur. The first one being that we had a new adult in our room! Mr. Brann substituted for Mrs. Lambert this past week, and the students really enjoyed working with him. We also had some 5th graders come down and read to us during our afternoon snack time. We were even able to learn about bats since it is the season for bats, pumpkins, candy, and more!

Overall, this week was a lot of fun with the First Grade. Seeing them work together in their math centers, write their own retells and illustrate the events, rhyme and create word families and more is so exciting! They are extremely excited to learn and do their best. I cannot wait for next week already!

Please have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* Early Release next Wednesday, October 29th, 2014
* Book Orders are due on Friday, October 31st, 2014
* Grades Close on Friday, October 31st, 2014
* And do not forget to check out our website at <http://gesgrade1.weebly.com/>

**Classroom Needs:**

* Help! Cold/Flu season is approaching and we are running out of Disinfectant Wipes!
* Sandwich Baggies