Hello 1st Grade Families!

I hope that you have had a great week with your student because I know that I sure have! We have made some leaps and bounds this week, and we have also started some pretty cool new projects. I cannot wait to see where we can go with them! Just informing you all, I know that I said I would be sending home some extra work/math practice packets this week. However, I was planning to send them home on Tuesday, and unfortunately I was unable to come to work that day. So, I will be sending those extra practice packets out this coming week!

In ELA this week, the students have been working on their retells of texts. We also started a project. Students have to take a familiar text and work with a group to create a puppet show that is a retell of the book! Students are already working hard on this task, and they are having a blast doing it. I am so excited to see how invested they all are in this project. I will let you know when we get closer to the presentation date, so that you may come in and see the puppet shows. You will definitely get an invitation for that day. We have also been working on short a sounds. We have worked on the following chunks: –at, -and, -ad, and –an. We are learning that we can make new words by simply changing the first letter/sound of the word and keeping the chunk the same! You just have to love those word families. Students have also been taking the post Common Formative Assessment for this ELA unit, which will be used to measure their progress during the past few weeks. We will use the results to see what we still need to work on, and the results will guide our instruction. Students also started building their stamina for Read to Someone. We are very excited to put that as a Daily 5 choice to participate in.

We have not had a lot of math time this week due to Specials and an Early Release Day, but when we have had math time, we have been playing some pretty neat games. Students are playing games that are based on adding two more to a number, practicing how to make 10, practicing writing their equations, focusing on sequencing numbers, finding the commutative property match, etc. While students are completing these activities, I have been giving students the post Common Formative Assessment for the first math unit. Then, we will move onto the second math unit which will focus on the same skills and standards, but now using numbers up to 20!

Fortunately, we were able to squeeze some science into our busy schedule this week. On Tuesday we read about bats from Scholastic News, and today we read/learned about pumpkins! We read about how we can use our 5 senses to identify a pumpkin, and we also learned about the parts of a pumpkin. We also “gutted” pumpkins this afternoon in order to collect the seeds and identify the parts. We are going to use the seeds as math manipulatives for the future. We also can use these pumpkin seeds for a science experiment. Can we grow a pumpkin our classroom? We are certainly going to try this winter! This will teach us about the life cycle of plants, and since we will have the Trout this spring, we will also be learning about the life cycle of animals! We are definitely going to have a fun and action-packed year.

It is so thrilling to come to work every day to witness the growth of these 1st graders. I am learning so much from them, and I cannot wait to continue to learn throughout the year!

I wish you a safe and happy weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Parent Reminders:**

* Grades close today
* Report cards come out next Friday
* Scholastic Orders were due today
* Keep checking out our website: <http://gesgrade1.weebly.com/>