Hello 1st Grade Families!

I hope that your week has been as spectacular as our week. We have really accomplished a lot, and we are starting to move on from assessments and towards using those results! For example, now that we have our Observational Survey’s completed, I am able to use that knowledge to target specific student needs while we read. Also, we are starting our flexible strategy groupings, so that students are able to get targeted instruction on what they need as readers. We also have been administering exit tickets and populating the results into a chart. The chart has shown some tremendous growth. I have also been meeting with some families and sharing results from the assessments. I look forward to meeting with everyone this month!

In Math, we are moving towards subtraction. We have been using physical models to show the concept of subtraction, and now we are working on the drawing model of subtraction. Next week, we will be able to use both strategies to help us in subtraction word problems. If you are able to, please do as many physical representations of subtraction as you can and have your student write down the representation into an equation (and yes, they do know what an equation means!). Try asking subtraction word problems as well, and of course, certainly use addition word problems with them! Any practice with addition facts will be helpful as well.

In ELA, we have been busy working on identifying main and secondary characters, identifying the setting of our books, and we are starting to introduce retelling a story. If you are able to, talk with your students about characters and setting. Also, have them retell what they read with you at night as much as possible. Our first graders are able to tell a great beginning and ending, however, they struggle with remembering the middle. Exposure is the best way to get them started on mastering their retell!

We have also been working on sounding out every letter that students can hear when they are writing a word. This is difficult for some, and it requires a lot of patience, and talking about what you hear as you say the word. Students have been writing every day, and yesterday, students wrote for 20 minutes without stopping! You will have to see the quality of their writing. It has really improved. We share some pieces every day, which really boosts our desire to write! Rhymes have been our main focus in phonics. Students can now write boat, goat, float, coat, duck, truck, much, and luck! Always reminding them that rhymes come at the end of the word and studying the words and their similar sounds and letters will certainly help your children in their rhyming adventure.

Overall, this week has been very productive. Students are making growth, and they are excited every day because they can see and feel the growth they are making. It is already an amazing journey with your students.

I hope that you have a great and safe weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Reminders:**

* Book orders are due on 10/31/14
* Fundraiser starts next week
* Check out our website: <http://gesgrade1.weebly.com/>
* The AMC is coming to do a weather program with our students on 10/8/14