Dear First Grade Families,

Last Friday I was out of school, and I can proudly announce that the first grade was wonderful for their substitute! I received a glowing report, and we should be so proud of them for “going with the flow” and learning how to be flexible at such a young age. This week, students were also flexible again! We had technology at a different time, we had the AMC come and visit us during an afternoon, and we jumped into work on writing with no hesitation in our day. They are flexible, on task, and excited learners.

In ELA this week, we have been reading rhyming poems, learning more about setting (where and when), still talking about characters, and learning how to get in the correct position for writing! Students are finishing up a retell of a book, where they received pictures from the book and they had to write about the setting and the action on that page. They have been focusing on beginning sounds and ending sounds in words, and student writing has improved immensely in the past 11 days that we have been working on writing. Please work on sounding out words with students when they want to write. We started out the year with only hearing beginning and ending sounds, but now we are starting to hear the middle of the words too. Students need to be encouraged to take their time, say their word multiple times, and focus on what letter/sound they are hearing, so that we can write our words correctly.

In Math we have dived into the world of subtraction. We are working on understanding that subtraction is taking away, and addition is adding to. Students are learning how to use physical models and ten frames to subtract. They are also starting to discover fact families, and they are learning that the commutative property does not work for subtraction, but that it works for addition. We are well practiced in addition word problems, and soon, we will be taking the plunge into subtraction word problems. Ask your student tonight about all of the different ways that they know how to add! We are really focusing on learning and using strategies to add rather than rote memorization of facts.

We did have the AMC come into our classroom to teach us about the weather. We learned the different types of clouds, a fun weather song, how to use the clouds to predict the weather, how to use observations to tell the weather outside, how to make a cloud, and that air does have weight! The students were kind, they participated, and they were invested in their education from the AMC.

Next week, we will only have four days of school because we do not have school on Monday. We will continue our work on subtraction, addition, retelling stories, and creating a puppet show for our ELA unit. Students will still be learning about beginning and ending sounds as well. We may even start to work on our new aspect of Daily 5, which is going to be Read to Someone!

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Ms. LaCasse

**Reminders:**

* There is no school Friday, October 10th, 2014
* There is no school Monday, October 13th, 2014
* Book orders are due 10/31/14
* Fundraiser is due on 10/21/14
* Check out our classroom website: <http://gesgrade1.weebly.com/>