Hello 1st Grade Families!

We have successfully completed the first full (full meaning a full five days) week of school! Isn’t that so exciting? Along with that, the students have completed NWEA testing, and they have also completed the PRE CFA for our first ELA unit, which is all about hearing a story and being able to retell the story. It has been another full week of learning.

In math, our class has been working on combinations to 5, which has led to the realization of the commutative property. This means that students know that 4+1 = 5 and so does 1+4. This will help with the automatic recall of facts. Students have also learned how to use linking cubes to help them solve addition word problems to five. The next step is to work on facts to 10, adding to 10, and word problems to 10. After that, students will be able to start working on subtraction problems, as well as word subtraction problems! What a fun few weeks we have ahead of us!

We have officially built our stamina up to 14 minutes of read to self! This means that your student was independently reading for 14 minutes without: walking, talking, gazing off into the distance, singing, etc. Please make sure to congratulate them on this accomplishment because they have been practicing so hard! We even challenged the 2nd grade, and so far, they are definitely giving us a challenge.

We have been working on putting sentences together, reading stories and focusing on understanding them as we read, and using our CAFÉ strategies as we read to self as well. There is no doubt about it: your student has been working very hard!

I cannot wait to see what next week has in store for us! Have a great and safe weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Reminders:**

* Open House is on Wednesday, September 17th, 2014 – come visit our classroom!
* There is an Early Release Day on Tuesday, September 16th, 2014
* The Scholastic Book Fair will run the week of September 15th, 2014
* Scholastic Book orders are **due on September 26th, 2014**.
* Check out our website: [www.gesgrade1.weebly.com](http://www.gesgrade1.weebly.com)

**Our Classroom Needs:**

* Egg Cartons (preferably in the form of a Dozen of eggs). We use these to play and make math games!