Dear 1st Grade Families,

What a successful week we have had! Open House was a complete success, and I enjoyed seeing everyone who came. To those who were unable to come, we surely did miss you! Students really improved their stamina this week for Read to Self, and we even were able to introduce the next part of Daily 5, which is Work on Writing. Students already have stamina of 1 minute for simply working on their writing, which is not an easy task in the 1st grade!

Students have also been diving headfirst into math. We have been working on word problems, the commutative property, and fact fluency to 5. Now we are learning our facts to 10, and even working on some subtraction in word problems!

In English, students are working on their writing, and building their read to self-stamina. Next week I will be able to start creating strategy grouping and meeting with students to talk about their needs and goals. We have been working hard on fixing sentences that I completely mess up the order of the words (I promise I do it as a teaching experience), and understanding first and last letters, words, and sentences. We have learned a new song, created motions to the song, and discovered a rhythm to one of our poems. We have also been working on questioning. I put up a picture of a book that we are going to read, and students create questions for before the reading, during the reading, and after the reading. We even used our questions to extend the ending of a book that we read! Questioning is a skill that is valuable, especially in literacy, so have your student read to you and question their book!

Needless to say, we have been very productive. Next week looks just as promising as this week to be just as productive! We also start our interventions next week, so our schedules will change a little bit.

I hope that you have a great and safe weekend!

Ms. LaCasse

**Reminders:**

* Scholastic Book orders are **due on September 26th, 2014**.
* Check out our website: [www.gesgrade1.weebly.com](http://www.gesgrade1.weebly.com)

**Classroom Needs:**

* Pillow Stuffing – I am going to be making our own classroom pillows for our reading time, so students are more comfortable during reading time. I am going to go to Wal-Mart and purchase some stuffing, but if you are able to donate some, that would be extremely helpful!
* Old T-Shirts – I am going to make the pillows out of Old T-Shirts. If you would like to donate some, that would be helpful! They just have to have appropriate logos, or no logos at all!