Parents,

We have a busy, but great week ahead. On Friday, we will have our party at 1:00. Those students that would like to participate in swapping cards can bring in Valentines cards to pass out. We are steadily moving along in First Grade. I’m sure you have noticed quite a change in pace this 2nd Semester. Students are expected by now to read more independently. They should know quite a few sight words and should be reading at least 43 words per minute. We are almost at the end of First Grade and there’s still so much more to learn!   Please continue to: read daily with your child and practice high frequency/sight words to help increase their reading fluency along with using the Lexia website; review addition and subtraction facts with the Reflex website, games or flashcards to enhance memory of the math facts; and lastly encourage more independence in your child.

**Reading:**

We are on week 1 in Unit 4.  Our story for the week is "Mama’s Birthday Present”.  Skills for the week are: Comprehension - Drawing conclusions using the strategy "monitor and clarify"; Grammar - adjectives; Phonics - singular and plural possessives, vowel digraphs ai/ay; spelling words: way, day, gray, train, tail, may, mail, play, rain, afraid, about and would; high frequency words: about, surprise, enjoy, worry, give and would; and amazing words: celebrate, grateful, rarest, genuine, cherish, delicate and loot.  We will take our Spelling, Story and Grammar tests on Friday.

**Math:**

We have finished Topic 9. We will begin Topic 10 on Monday. This topic deals with adding tens and ones.  Please continue to review the papers that are sent home daily. Also, as always continue to work on addition and subtraction fluency at home. Another great way to practice math facts is by going on the Reflex Math website. I have told the children that we need to increase our usage at home for this site. I’ve seen this website work first hand at increasing fact fluency. Please consider allowing your child to grow in math fact fluency by using this site to practice.

**Social Studies:**

We will begin a mini unit on Abraham Lincoln and will then go into a unit on George Washington. As always, if you have some materials from an internet search, books, magazines that will enhance our unit of study, please feel free to share. As a heads up, students will be out of school for President’s Day on Monday, February 17th.

 Have a great week!

Ms. Johnson