

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to continue our fluency work as we enter the second half of the year! As we mentioned before, fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly while using expression. Fluency is important because it allows students to focus on meaning rather than devoting time and energy to sounding out words. Fluency can be developed and improved by modeling fluent reading and by engaging students in repeated oral readings.

At the beginning of every week, we will be sending home a new passage for your child to practice. Please follow the directions below as your child completes their fluency sheet for homework each night.

#### Mondays:

Set a timer for one minute. Read the short story to your child to demonstrate what a fluent reader sounds like.

Set the timer again for one minute. Read the short story together with your child. (Read it at a normal pace. Do not slow down to let your child “keep up” with you. Reading should match our normal speech rate. It should reflect the way we talk. For example: We...don't...talk....like..... this....so....we...don't....want...to....read...like....this...either!)

Set the timer for another minute. Listen as your child reads the passage to you one time. Remind your reader that we are focusing on expression { volume, phrasing, pace, and smoothness. After they are done reading, count the number of words they read in one minute. For example, if they read “Sam loves school. He can't wait to go” you would record 8 words. Last you would write down the number 8 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt for Monday (attempt one and two should be left blank on Monday only).

#### Tuesdays – Thursdays

Set the timer for one minute. Listen as your child reads to you. After they are done reading, count the number of words they read and record it under the corresponding day. Repeat this process 3 times each night and record how many words your child read on the chart at the bottom of the sheet. You should see your child reading more and more words each night and the number of words read in one minute increasing throughout the week.

On Fridays, we collect the passages so please keep it in your child's folder at all times.

Thank you in advance for all of the time you spend reading with your child this year! We truly appreciate you continuing this journey with us towards becoming better, more fluent readers!

The First Grade Team

# Fluency Folder

What is fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly with expression. In math, it is the ability to solve a problem quickly – having it be automatic.

Why is fluency important?

Fluency is important because it allows students to focus on making meaning rather than sounding out words or using fingers & toes to solve a math problem.

How can fluency be developed and improved?

Model fluent reading and engage in repeated oral reading. Practice basic computation and identification of shapes/coins until it is automatic.

Reading fluency has important elements to focus on:

Expression & Volume: The reader is reading the passage with feeling, paying attention to punctuation marks. The reader is also loud enough for the audience to hear with correct emotion.

Phrasing: Reader is using punctuation and meaning to read complete thought. (Reader stops at periods and pauses at commas).

Smoothness & Accuracy: The reader can read smoothly without having to sound out words as they read.

Pace: The reader is reading at a normal pace. Reading sounds like a conversation. It is not slow or choppy. It's also not too fast!