Grade 2 – Unit 4

We are beginning Unit 4: Addition and Subtraction within 100. Students will explore strategies for flexibly, accurately, and efficiently adding and subtracting within 100. They will communicate their thinking and be able to justify their strategies both verbally and in written form. During this unit students will be exploring a variety of strategies through a series of investigations comparing family members’ ages. Introducing students to a variety of strategies allows them to choose the strategies that are most efficient for a given problem. We ask that you refrain from teaching your child the standard algorithm for addition and subtraction. It is one of the strategies that your students will learn in our next unit, but it is purposely introduced after students have developed a solid foundation for adding and subtracting two digit numbers and have explored and developed efficient strategies. This unit also highlights the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Some examples of the work your child will be doing are:

* Students will notice patterns in our number system when skip counting by a particular number.
* Example: 163, 143, 123, 103, 83, 63…
* Students will compose and decompose numbers to deepen understanding of place value and to solve addition and subtraction problems
* Example: 54 + 27 = (50 + 4) + (20 + 7)

= (50 + 20) + (4 + 7)

= 70 + 11 = 81

* Students will use to open number lines as a tool to visually represent their thinking.
* Example: 29 + = 50

+1 +10 +10

29 30 40 50

* Students will use “friendly” numbers to help solve computation problems
* Example: 82 – 59 = can be thought of as 82 – 60 + 1
* Example: 99 + 99 can be thought of as (100 + 100) -2 = 198
* Students will determine the most efficient strategy for solving a particular problem
* Example: The subtraction problem 71- 68 can be efficiently solved using addition: 68 + \_\_\_ = 71

Here is how you can help your child while our class is working on this unit.

* Practice basic addition and subtraction facts within 20.
* Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage them to think about how to compose and decompose numbers to create “friendly” numbers in order to find efficient ways to solve problems.
* Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems. By explaining his/her thinking your child is solidifying his/her understanding of concepts and strategies.

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher or the Math Science Teacher.

For additional information, take a look at the Fairfield Public School Parent Guide at <http://fairfieldpublicschoolsk5math.wikispaces.com/home>