Grade 2 – Unit 8

We are beginning Unit 8: Multiplication. Students will explore foundational skills for understanding multiplication as a more efficient method for repeated addition (5+5+5+5 = 4x5). Students will use rectangular array models to develop an understanding of multiplication and represent numbers with different arrays. (16 = 4 x 4 OR 2 x 8). Students deepen their understanding of early algebraic concepts through a series of investigations focusing on exchange and equivalence using coins. As the unit progresses students will be introduced to an unknown denomination, will simplify equations and will solve for the unknown.

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

* Students will represent multiplication using models and explore equivalence
* Examples: 4x2 = 2x4
* How many ways can you arrange 12 children into even rows?
* Students will use addition to find the total number of objects arranged in rectangular arrays and write an equation to express the total
* Example:

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

 6 + 6 + 6 or

3 rows of 6

* Students will relate repeated addition to multiplication

Example: 6 + 6 + 6 can be thought of as 3 groups of 6 = six three times = 3 x 6

* Students will explore equivalence.

Examples:

* 5 nickels = \_\_\_\_\_dimes
* True or False? 4 + 8 + 3 + 6 ≟ 5 + 7 + 4 + 5

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

* Continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
* Look for examples of multiplication arrays in the world around you (cartons of eggs, soda and juice bottles in packs of 6 and 8, packages of hotdog or hamburger buns,…)
* Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage them to think about how to compose and decompose numbers.
* Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems.

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>