Grade 1 – Unit 2

 We are beginning Unit 2: Whole Number Concepts, Estimation and Computation using Addition and Subtraction within Twenty. In this unit students will focus on strategies that involve composing numbers (putting together) and decomposing numbers(breaking apart). Through a series of investigations students will develop a deeper understanding of equivalence. Students will understand that numbers can be grouped in a variety of ways or presented in a different order, and the quantity will stay the same. Students will develop automaticity of facts by focusing on number relationships and will use benchmark numbers to develop efficient strategies for computing. Students will solve and write addition and subtraction story problems.

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

* Students will develop an understanding of equivalence.
* Example: 4 + 8 = 7 + \_\_\_\_
* Students will count to 120 starting at any number less than 120
* Students will find all the combinations of a given number.
* Example: Find the combinations to make 15.
* Students will use a variety of strategies to develop automaticity of facts.

Examples:

* Doubles facts: 4 + 4 = 8
* Near doubles: 7 + 8 =

(7 + 7) + 1 = 15 or

(8 + 8) – 1 = 15

* Counting on: 6 + 2 can be thought of as 6 plus 2 more (7, 8)
* Making ten: 8 + 6 = (8 + 2) + 4 = 14
* Compensation: 4 + 9 = 3 + 10
* Students will investigate the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction.

Example: If 3 + 8 = 11 then 11 – 8 = 3

* Students will compose and decompose numbers through 20 using algebraic properties.

Examples:

* Commutative Property: 8+ 5 = 5 + 8
* Associative Property: 7 + 3 + 6 = (7 + 3) + 6 = 16
* Students will solve addition and subtraction story problems.
* Students will use benchmark numbers to solve problems more efficiently.
* Example: 5 + 7 can be thought of as (5 + 5) + 2

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

* Practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
* Play games that reinforce addition and subtraction strategies.
* Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage them to think about how to compose and decompose numbers.
* Use benchmark numbers like 5 or 10 to help solve problems mentally.
* Example: 7 + 8 = 7 + (3 + 5) = (7 + 3) + 5
* Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems. By explaining her/his thinking your child will be reinforcing her/his understanding of concepts and skills.

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>