Grade 1 – Unit 3

 We are beginning Unit 3: Geometry and Fractions. In this unit students will focus on the defining attributes of shapes to understand how shapes are alike and different. Students will compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) shapes. They will recognize and compare shapes from different perspectives and orientations. Students will partition shapes into fractional parts and will understand that fractional parts have special names.

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

* Students will identify shapes by their defining attributes and sort shapes.
* Example: A square has 4 sides and 4 corners (vertices)
* Students will compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) shapes to understand that smaller shapes make up larger shapes and larger shapes can be broken into smaller shapes.
* Example: How many trapezoids make a hexagon? (2)

* Example: How can a hexagon be broken into smaller shapes?
* Students will partition circles and rectangles into halves and fourths. Students will divide shapes into fractional pieces, label these pieces, and identify fractional amounts. They will understand that fractions are equal parts/shares of the whole and that the size of the whole matters.
* Example: Draw a line to divide the shape into 2 equal parts.
* Example: Label the fractional parts.
* Students will understand the concept of equal parts.
* Example: Color the figure that shows equal parts:

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

* Practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
* As you practice basic facts and play games, remind students of the strategies they learned in units 1 and 2, (counting on, making ten, doubles, and near doubles). Help them to use efficient strategies when practicing their basic facts.
* With your child, notice shapes in the world around you. Discuss how shapes can be divided into other shapes. Take note of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes in your home, on the playground, and at the store.
* 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. 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>