Kindergarten – Unit 5 Parent Letter

We are beginning Unit 5: Addition and Subtraction within 5. The purpose of this unit is to develop an understanding of addition as putting together and adding to, and understanding subtraction as taking apart and taking from. Students will represent addition and subtraction with objects, drawings, diagrams, acting out situations, verbal explanations and equations. Students will solve addition and subtraction word problems using various algebraic structures.

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

* Students will solve addition word problems within 5 using real world experiences to demonstrate. Example:
  + Result unknown: 2+3=?
  + Start unknown: ?+3=5
  + Change unknown 2+?=5
* Students will solve subtraction word problems within 5 using real world experiences.
* Students will write simple number sentences to match situations.
* Students will identify addition versus subtraction problems by determining if they are ‘adding on’ or ‘taking away’.
* Students will explore numbers through 10 by combining two quantities to build a given set.
  + Students will investigate how to create boxes of apples containing red and green apples. They will work collaboratively to search for all red and green combinations (1 red and 4 green, 2 red and 3 green, 3 red and 2 green, etc.) and represent them using an equation (1+4=5).

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

* Practice counting forward and backward with your child. Start within 10 and extend as needed.
* Count forward as you walk up a staircase together and backward as you walk down together.
* Using pennies or counters, show your child 5 objects. Take some objects away. Have your child ‘guess’ how many objects are missing. Have your child explain how they knew. Increase the number of objects as needed.
* Count objects at home. Ask your child how many there would be if you had one more, two more, etc. Ask how many objects there would be if you took one away, two away, etc.
* Work with your child to create word problems about your family. “Mom baked 4 cookies, Dad ate 2. How many are left?” Have your child draw pictures, use objects, and write a number sentence (4-2=2) to show their thinking.
* Flash a certain number of fingers for 2 seconds on each hand. Have your child join those two numbers together and tell how many fingers all together.
* Roll two dice. Add or subtract using the two numbers. Students may use the dots to count. Encourage them to write a number sentence (5+1=6) to represent the number of dots on the dice.
* Use fruit or snacks to solve the problem: Sara has 5 grapes. She eats some and has 1 left. How many grapes did Sara eat?

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>