



Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about addition and subtraction.

The focus of this unit is on combinations, estimating using five and ten as benchmarks, addition and subtraction. Students find different ways to arrange and describe a set of tiles, record different ways a set of two-color counters can land, figure out how many blue and red crayons could be in a set of five crayons, and play a card game in which they look for combinations of cards that total six. All of these activities focus on the idea that one number can be broken up in many ways: 6 is 3 and 3 or 5 and 1 or 2 and 2 and 2. Students continue making sense of addition and subtraction through story problems and games that ask them to combine or separate small amounts. Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals:

1. Use counting strategies to find out how many items are in two sets when they are combined, separated, or compared.
2. Build number combinations up to 10 (e.g., 4 and 1, 2 and 3, 3 and 2, 4 and 1 for five) and for doubles to 10 (3 and 3 for six).
3. Use objects, pictures, numbers, or words to create, solve and explain story problems (combining, separating, or comparing) for two numbers that are each less than 10. **Note: Make sure to allow student many opportunities to CREATE and solve story problems.**
4. Solve non-routine work problems using the strategy act out the problem or use objects.

5. With the use of manipulatives, solve routine word problems related to all appropriate kindergarten math standards.

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team