



Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new geometry unit in math. During this unit, students work with 3-dimensional objects (such as cubes and rectangular prisms) and develop their spatial visualization skills. Students draw 2-D pictures of 3-D objects from different perspectives and they consider the silhouettes, or shadows, made by 3-D objects.

At the end of the unit, students should be able to compare and contrast a cube and rectangular prism in terms of faces, edges and vertices, describe parallel and perpendicular lines and planes in connection with a rectangular prism, and construct and name models for solid figures. In addition, your child should be able to view a flat net, identify the 3-D shape it folds into, and construct that 3-D shape with the net.

Related Activities to Try at Home

Viewing Block Buildings - If your child has any interlocking blocks or wooden blocks, spend some time making simple buildings together. Look at the buildings you created and try drawing them from different perspectives. Visualizing is a skill like anything else— the more you practice, the better you get!

Math and Literature Here are some suggestions of children's books that contain relevant mathematical ideas about geometry and measurement. Look for these books at your local library.

Clement, Rod. *Counting on Frank*.
Schwartz, David. *Millions to Measure*.
Mcaulay, David. *Pyramid*.

In our math class, students spend time discussing problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team