



Dear Family,

Your child has started a new unit on using addition and subtraction. These are important math operations that we use almost every day.

At the beginning of the unit, students learn to estimate sums and differences by rounding numbers. They also use estimates to check that actual answers are reasonable, and compare numbers using the symbols for greater than ($>$), less than ($<$), or equal to ($=$).

$$78 > 35 \quad 114 < 25 + 175 \quad 14 + 16 = 15 + 15$$

Students also identify and compare the values of a collection of U.S. coins and bills, act out making purchases by counting out the exact amounts, and find out how much change they should receive when giving more than the exact amount for a purchase.



$$66¢ > 41¢$$

Later in the unit, students learn to recognize word problems that contain hidden, extra, and not enough information. They solve problems with two or more steps and learn to analyze information when it is presented in tables and graphs.

Your child is learning how math is used in the world around us. You can help your child learn by sharing shopping situations with them and pointing out graphs and tables in the newspaper or magazines. Encourage your child to spend time acting out shopping situations with coins and bills at home.

Thank you for helping your child learn important math skills.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher