



Dear Family,

Your child is familiar with addition and subtraction problems from past years. Unit 2 of *Math Expressions* guides students as they deepen and extend their mastery of these operations. The main goals of this unit are:

- to help students gain speed and accuracy in addition and subtraction,
- to introduce algebraic expressions and equations that feature these operations,
- to help students see how addition and subtraction relate to real-world situations, and
- to begin exploring two-step problems and mixed word problems.

Your child will learn and practice techniques such as counting on, doubling, regrouping, and ungrouping to gain speed and accuracy in addition and subtraction. Parentheses, which will be used throughout the school year, will be introduced to show which operation should be done first. The symbols " $=$ " and " \neq " will be used to show whether numbers and expressions are equal.

Increasing and decreasing change problems will be introduced in which the starting number, the change, or the result will be unknown. Your child will learn how to write an equation to show a change, collection, or comparison situation, and then solve the equation to find the answer to that problem.

Finally, your child will apply this knowledge to solve word problems for which he or she will have to determine the operations needed to solve the problems and carry out a strategy to arrive at a solution.

If you have questions or comments, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher