Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about number theory and fractions. We will be finding factors of numbers, and using exponents to write the prime factorization of numbers. We will also be working with fractions and mixed numbers.

You can expect to see work that provides practice with finding equivalent fractions and writing fractions in simplest form. Here are some examples of the type of work you might see.

**Vocabulary**

- **factor** One of two or more numbers that are multiplied to give a product.
- **greatest common factor (GCF)** The greatest whole number that is a common factor of two or more numbers. It is also called the greatest common divisor.
- **mixed number** A number that is the sum of a whole number and a fraction. For example, $3\frac{1}{2}$ is a mixed number.
- **prime number** A whole number, greater than 1, that has exactly two factors.

**Equivalent Fractions**

Equivalent fractions are fractions that name the same number. You can find a fraction that is equivalent to a given fraction by multiplying or dividing the numerator and the denominator by the same number.

\[
\frac{3}{5} \times 2 = \frac{6}{10} \quad \frac{3}{5} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{6}{10} \quad \text{are equivalent fractions.}
\]

\[
\div 3 \quad \frac{12}{18} = \frac{4}{6} \quad \frac{12}{18} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{4}{16} \quad \text{are equivalent fractions.}
\]

**Simplest Form**

A fraction is in simplest form when the only common factor of the numerator and the denominator is 1. You can write a fraction in simplest form by dividing the numerator and the denominator by the GCF of the numbers.

\[
\frac{18}{24}
\]

**Step 1** Find the GCF of 18 and 24.

18 = $2 \times 3 \times 3$
24 = $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3$

The GCF of 18 and 24 is $2 \times 3$, or 6.

**Step 2** Divide the numerator and the denominator by 6 so $\frac{18}{24}$ is $\frac{3}{4}$.

Sincerely,

Your Child’s Teacher

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