Dear Family,

During the next few weeks our math class will be learning about variables and how to use mental math to solve equations that contain variables.

We will also use addition and subtraction to solve problems involving whole numbers.

As we learn how to solve equations that contain variables, you may wish to use this sample as a guide.

Knowing how to solve equations containing variables will lay the foundation for the math that students will learn in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Your Child’s Teacher

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**Vocabulary**

- **equation** A mathematical sentence with an equal sign
- **variable** A letter or a symbol that represents a number in an algebraic expression

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**Solving Equations Using Mental Math**

**Find the value of** $x$ **in** $x + 4 = 7$.

**Find the value of** $x$ **in** $12 - x = 8$.

**Think:** What number should I add to 4 to get 7?

$x + 4 = 7$

$? + 4 = 7$

$x = 3$ because $3 + 4 = 7$

**Think:** What number should I subtract from 12 to get 8?

$12 - x = 8$

$12 - ? = 8$

$x = 4$ because $12 - 4 = 8$

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