

Math News

SPRING 2025

Dear Sheehan Families,

Spring has arrived, and it's amazing how fast the school year is moving! We're thrilled to bring you the third edition of our math newsletter, giving you a peek into what your budding mathematicians have been exploring and what's ahead. The classrooms are buzzing with excitement, and we're continually inspired by the problem-solving, creativity, and determination our students show in their math learning every day.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas you'd like to share!

Erin Guadagno & Kate Scales

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are in their 6th unit of the year—working with numbers in all kinds of fun ways! Students are counting sets of up to 20 objects, exploring different ways to break apart numbers to 10 (like seeing 7 as 5 and 2, or 3, 2, and 2), and using symbols and pictures to show their math thinking. We're exploring all the ways to make a number and solving simple story problems using addition and subtraction. Activities like Inventory Bags, measuring, games, and the Counting Jar make math hands-on and exciting as students build their confidence and creativity with numbers!

Next up: Kindergarteners will sort, classify, and represent data before moving on to our final unit of the year—working with teen numbers.

Ask your Kindergartener about their weekly "Number Talks" with the math specialists!



1st Grade

Our first graders are diving into Unit 7, "How Many Tens, How Many Ones?" Students are learning to count by numbers other than 1—with a special focus on groups of 10. They're exploring how to add and subtract 10 from a 2-digit number, and how to subtract one multiple of 10 from another. A big part of this unit is understanding how to represent 2-digit numbers using tens and ones, and using that understanding to solve addition problems within 100!

To help build this understanding, students use fun and familiar tools—like fingers, Ten Cards, and towers of 10 cubes—to visualize and work with numbers. These hands-on activities help students compare, add, and make sense of numbers—even in situations where there are more than 10 ones.

In addition, our first graders have been continuing to develop their data skills—collecting, recording, and describing information in meaningful ways!

2nd Grade

Second grade students recently wrapped up their unit on place value of three-digit numbers and operations within 100. They explored a variety of story problem types—such as put-together/take-apart problems with one or both addends unknown, and add-to/take-from problems with unknown results. Along the way, they enjoyed playing games that involved combining amounts to reach 100 or \$1. Currently, second graders are completing their measurement unit. They're developing strategies for accurately measuring length using both nonstandard and standard units, including craft sticks, cubes, inches, feet, yards, centimeters, and meters. To wrap up the unit, students will represent measurement data on line plots and solve story problems involving adding, subtracting, and comparing lengths.

Helpful Resources

Click blue text for links

[Investigations Math Games](#)

Games are organized by grade level

[Math Words and Ideas](#)

Short videos and activities from our curriculum that support student learning in school

(organized by grade and strand)

[PRACTICE FLUENCY AT HOME!](#)

[3rd grade Fluency Game Folder](#)

[4th/5th grade Fluency Game Folder](#)

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3rd Grade

Our third graders have delved into their 7th math unit of the year- focusing on the operations of addition and subtraction, and building fluency. They're working on adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and 100 to and from 3-digit numbers and using those multiples—especially hundreds—as helpful landmarks when solving problems. This unit also includes story problems involving liquid volume and mass. Students are encouraged to share and compare different strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems, helping them deepen their understanding through discussion and collaboration.

Looking ahead, our final unit of the year will focus on multiplication and division- including problems with remainders and multi-step problem solving!

To support your child's progress, please continue to practice multiplication facts within 10 to build fluency [please see **Resources** on Page 1 for link to our 3rd grade game folder].

5th Grade

Fifth graders have been hard at work this spring tackling some challenging math concepts. Over the past few months, they've focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals. Visual models and reasoning strategies have helped them make sense of these new ideas. Students use a variety of contexts and representations—such as fraction bars, arrays, and grids—to solve problems involving multiplication and division of fractions and decimals. They also apply their understanding of these operations to solve metric and customary conversion problems. The year will conclude with a focus on geometry.

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4th Grade

Since the start of the new year, fourth graders have been exploring some big mathematical ideas—geometry, fractions, and decimals. The geometry and measurement unit focused on measuring with standard units, including perimeter, area, and angles; describing and classifying 2-D shapes, and identifying mirror symmetry. Over the past two months, fractions and decimals have been a major focus in grade 4. Building on their third-grade foundation, students deepened their understanding of the meaning of fractions and decimals, and worked on comparing and finding equivalencies between them. They used real-world contexts and visual models—such as rectangles (area models) and number lines (linear models)—to add, subtract, and multiply fractions. Fourth graders will end the year with their final unit on multiplication and division - working with numbers into the thousands.

Math for Fun!

Try this at home!



What do you notice? What do you wonder?

*Credit: Multiplicity Lab

Attn: 3rd-5th Grade Families-
Math MCAS dates:

Tuesday 5/14 and Thursday 5/16

MCAS Makeup day: Friday 5/17