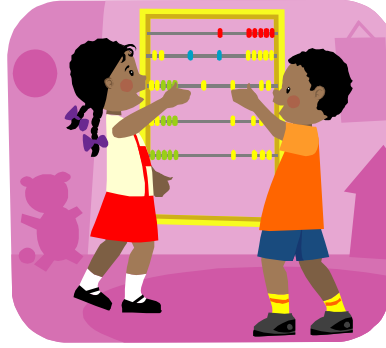


Math News



Dear Family,

The new mathematics unit we are starting is called *Counting Ourselves and Others*. In this unit, the children will collect real information, or “data” by counting as they investigate questions like these: How many children are in our class – and how many eyes? After the children have collected their data, they find ways to represent it to others. For example, they may draw pictures, or write numbers, or make a model with cubes or counters to show “how many”.

Another part of our work in this unit involves sorting and classifying. The children look closely at related objects, such as two types of shoe. How are these shoes the same? How are they different? This information can be used to sort things into groups – for example, all the shoes with laces in one group, all the shoes without laces in another group. In other activities, they will be sorting and classifying containers, blocks of different colors and shapes, items of clothing, and their own self-portraits.

Throughout this unit your child will be collecting real data from classmates. In one activity, the children each identify their favorite part of lunch. Then they sort these favorite foods into categories and make a large class representation of this information. Later the children will be taking surveys in class, asking questions that can be answered yes or no, and finding ways to represent their results.

While we are working on this unit, you may want to be involved in one of these ways:

- Continue to count things around the house with your child. How many cans of soup are on the shelf? How many spoons are in the drawer? Ask your child to keep track of the counts and then find a way to communicate that information to someone else.
- Play “Same and Different”. Find two similar objects, such as a sneaker and a boot, or a T-shirt and a shirt with buttons. With your child, take turns describing how the two things are the same and how they are different.

Thank you for your interest and participation in our mathematics activities.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Staff