Grade 1 – Unit 4

We are beginning Unit 4: Place Value. The purpose of this unit is to develop students’ understanding of place value. Using a series of investigations students will gather data and study patterns in our place value system to deepen their understanding of place value concepts. Students will understand that a digit can represent ones or tens or hundreds, depending on where it is placed and will compare two- digit numbers. Students will see that place value patterns occur when making and adding groups of ten. They will also understand that groupings of ones, tens, and hundreds can be composed (put together) and decomposed (taken apart) in different ways.

Some examples of the work your child will be doing are:

* Students will understand that a collection of objects can be thought of as a group.
* Example: 10 cubes can be thought of as one group of ten. (This is called unitizing.)
* Students will understand that groupings of ones, tens, and hundreds can be composed (put together) and decomposed (taken apart) in different ways.
* Example: 23 = 2 tens + 3 ones or 1 ten + 13 ones
* Students will notice patterns that occur when making and adding groups of ten.
* Example: 46, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 106…What do you notice?
* Example: What number is 10 greater than 78? How do you know?
* Example: If we took 10 away from 86, how many would we have? How do you know?
* Students will add and subtract using benchmark numbers.
* Example: 18 + 5 can be thought of as 18 + (2 + 3)=

(18 + 2) + 3=

20 + 3 = 23

* Students will use the commutative and associative properties to add efficiently.
* Example: If you know that 5 + 3 = 8, then you know that 3 + 5 = 8.
* Example: 3 + 6 + 7 can be restructured as (3 + 7) + 6 = 16

Here is how you can help your child while our class is working on this unit:

* Practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
* Play games that reinforce addition and subtraction strategies.
* Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage your child to think about how to compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) numbers.
* Use benchmark numbers like 5 or 10 to help solve problems mentally.
* Example: 7 + 8 = 7 + (3 + 5) = (7 + 3) + 5
* Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems. By explaining her/his thinking your child will be reinforcing her/his understanding of concepts and skills.

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher or the Math Science Teacher.

For additional information, take a look at the Fairfield Public School Parent Guide at <http://fairfieldpublicschoolsk5math.wikispaces.com/home>