About the Mathematics in This Unit

Dear Family,

Our class is starting the year with a mathematics unit called *Coins, Number Strings, and Story Problems*. This unit lays the groundwork for the mathematics we do all year. We will focus on counting by 1s and by groups of 5 and 10, identifying and recognizing coins and their values, using what we know to add and subtract numbers, developing fluency with the addition and subtraction facts, and understanding and solving a variety of story problems that involve addition and subtraction.

Throughout the unit, students work toward the following goals.

Benchmarks/Goals	Examples
Recognize and identify coins and know their value.	Which one is the dime? What's the name of the other coin? "A quarter is worth 25 cents." = 25¢

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Use known combinations to add several numbers in any order.	$1 + 7 + 9 + 7 =$ _____ "I know that $1 + 9 = 10$ and $7 + 7 = 14$. Then $10 + 14 = 24$. You can add the numbers in any order."
Solve a comparison story problem with the difference unknown.	There are 29 cookies. Are there enough cookies for everyone in our class to have one? How many would be left over?
Solve story problems with an unknown total and an unknown result.	Kira had 10 marbles. Jake had 12. How many marbles do they have together? There were 22 children playing tag on the playground. Then 10 more children joined the game. How many children were playing tag? Kira had 16 baseball cards. She gave 7 of them away. How many baseball cards does Kira have left?

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities. They are frequently asked to share their thinking about a given problem. Most important is that children accurately solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain the math thinking that supports those solutions. In the coming weeks, you will receive more information about our work in this unit as well as suggestions for activities to do at home. We are looking forward to creating a mathematical community in our classroom.