

Dear Family,

The first Unit in your child's mathematics class this year is **Prime Time: Factors and Multiples**, part of the number strand in *Connected Mathematics*.

▶ Unit Goals

In this Unit, the focus is on the properties of whole numbers, especially those related to multiplication and division. Students will learn about factors, multiples, divisors, products, prime and composite numbers, common factors and multiples, the Distributive Property, and Order of Operations. They will discover key properties of numbers and use them to solve problems.

▶ Helping With Homework

In your child's notebook, you can find worked-out examples, notes on the mathematics of the Unit, and descriptions of the vocabulary words.

You can help with homework and encourage sound mathematical habits during this Unit by asking questions such as the following:

- Will finding factors or multiples help you solve the problem?
- How can you find the factors of a number? How can you find the multiples of a number?
- What common factors and common multiples do the numbers have?
- How does the Order of Operations help you solve problems?
- How can you use the Distributive Property to write a number as two equivalent expressions?

As part of the assessment for this Unit, your child may be asked to do a project called "My Favorite Number." As students work through the Unit, they apply their new knowledge to create projects that include everything they have learned about their chosen number and its properties.

▶ Having Conversations About The Mathematics in Prime Time

You can help your child with his or her work for this Unit in several ways:

- Have your child share his or her mathematics notebook with you, showing you what he or she has recorded about numbers. Ask your child to explain why these ideas are important.
- Ask your child to explain the rules for playing the Factor Game and the Product Game. If you have time, offer to play a game.
- Look over your child's homework; make sure that all questions are answered and the explanations are clear.
- Have your child explain the Order of Operations and why it is important.
- Ask your child to explain how to use the Distributive Property to find the area of a rectangle.

▶ Common Core State Standards

Students develop and use all of the Standards of Mathematical Practice throughout the curriculum. In *Prime Time*, students practice constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others as they use properties of numbers to solve problems and justify their responses to their classmates. *Prime Time* focuses largely on the *Number System* and *Expressions and Equations* domains in the Common Core State Standards.

A few important mathematical ideas that your child will learn in *Prime Time* are given on the next page. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this Unit or your child's progress in the class, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,