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Math News

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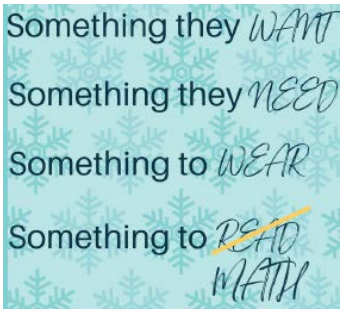
Establishing Number Sense

Number sense is an understanding of number relationships that allows students to solve problems efficiently and fluently. A person with number sense has sense of what numbers mean, understands their relationships to one another, and is able to perform mental math using a variety of strategies. Number sense is important because it encourages students to think flexibly, promotes confidence with numbers, and helps determine if answers are reasonable. Students who lack a strong number sense have trouble developing the foundation needed for basic arithmetic much less more complex math. In class, teachers are using number talks to help develop students' number sense.



What to get for the Holidays. . .

Get something "mathy" this year

- *Board Games*
  - Sum of Which
  - Chutes & Lands
  - Wits & Wagers
  - Candyland
- *Cards and Dice*
  - Skip-Bo
  - Yahtzee
  - Tenzi
- *Spatial Reasoning*
  - Puzzles
  - Blokus
  - Set
- *Math Literature Books*

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Winter Math Challenge

Continue to grow your math brain over winter break!

Students are encouraged to log into their math programs *(Symphony Math, IXL, Front Row or Reflex Math)* for a minimum of 45 minutes over break. Information will be coming home later this week for Grades 1 – 4. Kindergarten students have their own math challenge that teachers will pass out this week.

34 × 28

	20	8
30	600	240
4	80	32

32
80
240
+ 600
952

Area Model

An **area model** is a **model** for math problems where the length and width are configured using multiplication to figure out the size of an **area**. What makes the area model useful is that area is a *conserved quantity*. You can break one large area (in the example, that of a 34 × 28 rectangle) into several pieces; find the areas of the pieces individually; then add to get the area of the whole. This is where the early exposure to *number bonds* is useful: a student who can decompose a number (34 as 30+4) allows them to divide the rectangle into parts that are easier to manage. To learn more about how the area model deepens a student's level of understanding, please watch Five Objections to Teaching Area Model.