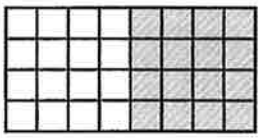
About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new mathematics unit about multiplication and division called *Equal Groups*. During this unit, students develop an understanding that we use multiplication to combine a number of equal groups and that we use division to split a quantity into equal groups. By the end of Grade 3, it is expected that students will know and use multiplication combinations for any two 1-digit numbers and combinations with products to 50 (e.g., 10×5, 11×3, 12×4).

Throughout the unit, students work toward the following goals:

BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Demonstrate an understanding of multiplication and division as involving groups of equal size.	Here are 3 stars. Each star has 5 points. There are 15 points in all. $3 \times 5 = 15$
Solve multiplication combinations and related division problems using skip counting or known multiplication combinations.	Ms. Wilson's class is counting around the class by 4s. What number will the 8th student say? 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32
	 $4 \times 8 = (4 \times 4) + (4 \times 4)$ $4 \times 8 = 16 + 16$ $4 \times 8 = 32$
Interpret and use multiplication and division notation.	There are 35 flowers. Gina wants to put them in bouquets of 5 flowers each. She can make 7 bouquets. $35 \div 5 = 7$

(continued)

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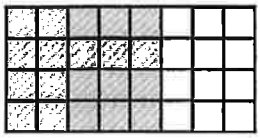
About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 2 of 2)

BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Demonstrate fluency with multiplication combinations for any two 1-digit numbers and combinations with products up to 50 (e.g., 10×5, 11×3, 12×4) by the end of Grade 3.	 $4 \times 8 = (4 \times 5) + (4 \times 3)$ $4 \times 8 = 20 + 12$ $4 \times 8 = 32$

In our math class, students spend time discussing problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is most important that children accurately and efficiently solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

Please look for more information and activities about *Equal Groups* that will be sent home in the coming weeks.

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