

Dear Family,

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

UNIT GOALS

Prime Time focuses on the properties of whole numbers, especially those related to multiplication and division. Students will learn about factors, multiples, divisors, products, prime numbers, composite numbers, common factors and multiples, and many other ideas about numbers. Students will participate in a series of activities that reflect many of the key properties of numbers and learn how to use these properties to solve problems.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

The goal of *Connected Mathematics* is to help students develop sound mathematical habits. You can help with homework and at the same time encourage sound mathematical habits by asking questions such as:

- Will finding factors or multiples help you solve the problem?
- What relationships will factors or multiples help you see?
- What do the factors and multiples of numbers tell you about the situation?
- 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 two numbers have?

In your child's notebook, you can find worked-out examples from problems done in class, notes on the unit's mathematics, and descriptions of the vocabulary words.

In this unit, your child will be asked to do a project called "My Special Number." It is introduced at the beginning of the unit, when each student is asked to choose a number and write several things about it. As students work through the unit, they apply what they have learned to write new information about their numbers. At the end of the unit, students create projects that include everything they have learned about their numbers.

HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS IN PRIME TIME

You can help your child in several ways:

- Have your child share his or her mathematics notebook with you, showing you what has been recorded about factors and multiples. Ask your child to explain why these ideas are important.
- Have your child show you the boards for playing the Factor Game and the Product Game. Ask your child to explain the rules, and, if you have time, offer to play a game.
- Have your child explain something that he or she learned from playing the game.
- Look over your child's homework and make sure all questions are answered and that explanations are clear.

A few important mathematical ideas that your child will learn in *Prime Time* are given on the back. 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,

