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|  | **Alta Vista Elementary…** **A look at What your Child is learning in math class!** | September 2016 |
| Volume 1 Issue 1 |
| **Kindergarten** | **1st Grade** |
| Our Kindergarteners have been learning about the position of objects in their environment using terms such as *above, below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*. They will also explore the different shapes they see in the world around them. They will learn to sort these shapes according to attributes such as size, color and shape. At home, you can help your kindergartener practice positional words by having him/her describe the location of items. For example, the red ball is *under* the table. Furthermore, create opportunities for your kindergartener to practice his/her sorting skills. For example, sorting coins according to size. Resort the coins according to color. Working together, we will make sure our kindergarten students develop the vocabulary necessary to describe the world around them.  | During the first six weeks in first grade, students will make connections between counting, addition, and subtraction. During this time, our instructional focus is to develop the understanding of what it means to add and subtract. First grade students will be given multiple opportunities to model addition and subtraction problem situations. Our ultimate goal is for students to understand that addition causes sets to grow whereas subtraction has the opposite effect and diminishes the size of a set. At home, parents can help first graders by providing scenarios where students have to decide if the scenario describes addition or subtraction. Once students recognize when to add and when to subtract, they will be better equipped to carry out the intended operation.  |
| **2nd Grade** | **3rd Grade** |
| Grade 2 students have begun their year exploring numbers through 4 digits. They will learn how to compose (put together) and decompose (break apart) these larger numbers as they write them in multiple forms. They will be able to apply place value concepts to compare numbers using correct vocabulary and symbols. During this time, students will add to their skip counting abilities by skip counting in multiple ways starting from numbers other than zero. They will also understand and represent odd and even numbers in various ways. At home parents can supplement students’ experiences by decomposing numbers in different ways. For example, 321 = 100 + 100 + 100 + 10 + 10 + 1 to recognize that there are 3 hundreds, 2 tens, and 1 one in 321. By doing so, parents are helping to lay the foundation for multiplication in Grade 3.  | In Grade 3, our students have been busy adding and subtracting numbers within 1,000 to solve one and two-step word problems. Students have explored addition and subtraction strategies based on place value, the properties of these operations, and the relationship between addition and subtraction. Students have also been using place value to round numbers to the nearest 10 and nearest 100. Continued exposure to these skills at home will help students master these skills at school. By playing fun games with your child, learning comes alive for them and they are more prone to learn. One easy game to play is using number cubes (dice). Have the student roll a number 3 or 4 times as they create a 3 or 4-digit number. Have the student round that number to the nearest 10 and then round the same number to the nearest 100. Making learning fun is a great way to help at home.  |
| **4th Grade** | **5th Grade** |
| Our Grade 4 students have started the year fluently adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. They have also expanded their knowledge of place value by working with numbers into the millions period. They will get multiple opportunities to compare these larger numbers based on the meanings of the value of the digits in each place. Students will use this understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place, a big step from what they did last year in Grade 3. Parents can help solidify their child’s rounding abilities by giving them opportunities at home to round multi-digit whole numbers to any given place value. A firm understanding of place value will be necessary later in the school year as students embark on their study of decimals. | Grade 5 students have been busy multiply multi-digit whole numbers. They have built upon their Grade 4 experiences with multiplication by learning to multiply using the traditional algorithm. They have also been busy understanding the order of operations and why it is important to know which operation to perform first. Students have also been given the opportunity to persevere in mathematics by working on multi-step word problems. Our fifth graders will also continue to expand their understanding of place value. At home, parents can help their child by practicing their multi-digit multiplication skills.  |