



December 9, 2011

Dear Grade Two Parents,

Everyday Mathematics – Unit 4
Addition and Subtraction

In Unit 4, students will use addition and subtraction stories to develop mental arithmetic skills. Mental arithmetic is computation done in one’s head or by drawing pictures, making tallies, or using manipulatives (counters, money, number grids and number lines – no calculators, though). Students can also use their own solution strategies.

A second grader uses a number grid to solve $5 + 9$.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

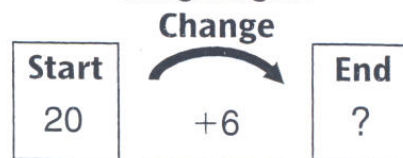


Addition has two basic meanings: *putting together* and *changing to more*. In this unit, students will use **parts-and-total diagrams** and **change diagrams** to help them organize information in addition stories that either “put together” or “change to more.” See the attached vocabulary section to learn more about these diagrams.

Parts-and-Total Diagram

Total	
?	
Part	Part
20	16

Change Diagram



Students will also develop estimation skills by solving problems that involve purchases. For example, the students will estimate whether \$5.00 is enough to buy a pen that costs \$1.69, a notebook that costs \$2.25, and a ruler that costs \$0.89.

In the last part of this unit, students will learn paper-and-pencil strategies for addition and will continue to gain hands-on experience with thermometers, money, rulers, and tape measures.

Attached to this letter is more information about Unit 4 to help you support your child's learning. Instructions for the game called "Leap Frog" are also attached. The students have played this game several times during Unit 3. Any time parents can give to completing the "Do-Anytime Activities" and "Leap Frog" would be appreciated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the agenda, or email at bhuggins@elmwood.ca.

Sincerely,

Brenda Huggins
Grade Two Teacher