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LETTERS TO PARENTS IN MATH

# LETTERS TO PARENTS IN MATH

**Grades 4–6**

40 Ready-to-Use Letters in English and Spanish

By Janet Kapche Razionale

with Lisa C. Kircher

## LETTERS TO PARENTS IN MATH



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# Whole Numbers

## Adding and Subtracting

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

Our class has been learning to add and subtract whole numbers. We can do this mentally, by using paper and pencil, or by using a calculator. Sometimes it makes no difference which method we use. Other times one method is an obvious best choice.



You can help your child practice adding and subtracting whole numbers by doing one or both of the following activities together. Include other family members if possible.

### Name Values

Let each letter of the alphabet have a different dollar value as shown below:

A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4	E = 5	F = 6	G = 7	H = 8
I = 9	J = 10	K = 11	L = 12	M = 13	N = 14	O = 15	P = 16
Q = 17	R = 18	S = 19	T = 20	U = 21	V = 22	W = 23	X = 24
Y = 25	Z = 26						

Write your name using the numbers above. Add the numbers. Write another family member's name using numbers, and add the numbers. Whose name is worth more when the values of the letters are added?

Compare the values of your first and last names. What is the difference?

### Road Miles

Open a road atlas and find a mileage chart. Choose two major cities and find the distance between them. Choose two different cities and repeat.

Locate some major cities you would like to visit. Trace a route to these cities from your home, and find the total distance one way. Map out a different return route. Compare the routes. Which is longer?

Sincerely,

# Números enteros

## Suma y resta

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Estimados padres de familia:

En clase hemos estado aprendiendo a sumar y restar números enteros. Lo hacemos mentalmente, con papel y lápiz o con una calculadora. A veces no importa qué método usemos. Otras veces un método es obviamente la mejor opción.

Para ayudar a su hijo o hija a que practique la suma y resta de números enteros, hagan juntos una de las siguientes actividades, o ambas. Si es posible, incluyan a otros miembros de la familia.



## Valor de los nombres

Se asigna un valor en dólares a cada letra del alfabeto de la manera siguiente:

A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4	E = 5	F = 6	G = 7	H = 8
I = 9	J = 10	K = 11	L = 12	M = 13	N = 14	O = 15	P = 16
Q = 17	R = 18	S = 19	T = 20	U = 21	V = 22	W = 23	X = 24
Y = 25	Z = 26						

Escribe tu nombre usando los números de arriba. Súmalos. Escribe el nombre de otro miembro de la familia usando los números, y súmalos. ¿Cuál de los nombres vale más después de sumar las letras?

Compara el valor de su nombre y de su apellido. ¿Cuál es la diferencia?

## Millas de carretera

Abre un atlas de carreteras y busca la tabla de millaje. Escoge dos ciudades grandes y halla la distancia que hay entre ellas. Escoge otras dos ciudades y haz lo mismo.

Localiza algunas ciudades grandes que te gustaría visitar. Traza una ruta a esas ciudades desde tu casa, y halla la distancia total de una ida. Busca en el mapa una ruta diferente para el regreso. Compara las rutas. ¿Cuál es más larga?

Atentamente,

# Whole Numbers

## Estimating Sums and Differences

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

Our class has been learning to estimate sums and differences of whole numbers by rounding to a particular place value (such as tens, hundreds, or thousands), by rounding the front-end, or first, digit only, and by looking for numbers that cluster around or are close to a certain number before adding or subtracting.

You can help your child practice estimating sums and differences of whole numbers by doing one or both of the following activities with your child. Include other family members if possible.

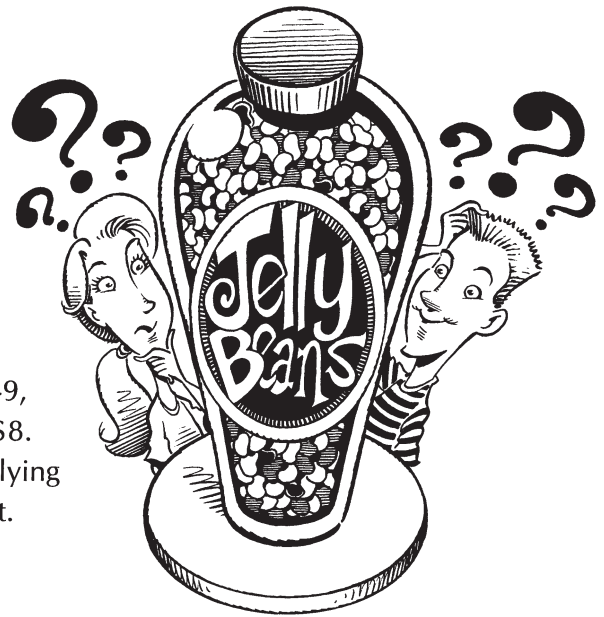
### Store Receipts

Using the store receipt from the weekly food shopping, examine the receipt for an amount that several items are clustered around. For example: \$1.79, \$2.49, \$2.30, and \$1.95 cluster around \$2.00, so  $4 \times \$2 = \$8$ . Using this amount, estimate the total spent by multiplying the number of items purchased by the cluster amount.

### Guess How Many

Fill a clear container with small items of food. Have your child estimate how many items are in the container before counting and possibly eating the food. Do this activity occasionally and increase the number and types of items in the container, and change the container.

Sincerely,





# Números enteros

## Estimación de totales y diferencias

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Estimados padres de familia:

En clase hemos estado aprendiendo a hacer estimaciones de totales y diferencias de números enteros redondeando a un valor relativo (de posición) particular (como decenas, centenas o millares) redondeando el primer dígito solamente, y buscando números que se acercan a cierto número antes de sumar o restar.

Para ayudar a su hijo o hija a practicar la estimación de sumas y diferencias de números enteros, hagan juntos una de las siguientes actividades, o ambas. Si es posible, incluyan a otros miembros de la familia.

### Recibos de tiendas

Usa los recibos de las tiendas correspondientes a las compras de comestibles de la semana y busca una cantidad a la que se acercan varios de los artículos comprados. Por ejemplo: \$1.79, \$2.49, \$2.30 y \$1.95 se acercan a \$2.00, así que  $4 \times \$2 = \$8$ . Con esta cantidad, haz la estimación del total que se gastó multiplicando el número de artículos comprados por la cantidad escogida.

### Adivina cuántos hay

Llena un recipiente transparente con artículos comestibles pequeños. Haz la estimación de cuántos artículos hay en el recipiente antes de contarlos y posiblemente comerlos. Haz esta actividad ocasionalmente y aumenta el número y tipo de artículos del recipiente, y cambia el recipiente.

Atentamente,



# Whole Numbers

## Problem Solving Using Addition and Subtraction

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

Our class has been learning to solve problems by adding and subtracting whole numbers. Usually we want an exact answer so we use a calculator or paper and pencil.

You can help your child practice solving problems by doing one or two of the following activities with your child. Encourage other family members to participate.

### Puzzling Sums and Differences

You can combine the digits from 1 to 9 and then add or subtract to arrive at an answer of 100. Below are just a few examples. Note that the digits are used in order and they can form a number such as 67 or 89.

$$123 + 4 - 5 + 67 - 89 = 100$$

$$12 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 67 + 8 + 9 = 100$$

$$123 - 45 - 67 + 89 = 100$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 6 + 78 + 9 = 100$$

### Count Back to Zero

Two or more can play this game. Start at any number, such as 20. The first player counts back by one, two, or three. The next player continues from the last number mentioned and counts back by one, two, or three. The winner is the person who counts to zero.

### Find the Difference

Use the digits from 1 to 9 to complete the subtraction problem.

There are more than 100 possible ways to solve this problem. How many can you find?

-		

Sincerely,



# Números enteros

## Resolución de problemas con suma y resta

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Estimados padres de familia:

En clase hemos estado aprendiendo a resolver problemas sumando y restando números enteros. Por lo general queremos una respuesta exacta, así que usamos una calculadora o papel y lápiz.

Para ayudar a su hijo o hija a practicar la resolución de problemas, hagan juntos una o dos de las siguientes actividades. Si es posible, incluyan a otros miembros de la familia.

### Sumas y diferencias de rompecabezas

Se combinan los dígitos del 1 al 9 y luego se suman o se restan para obtener la respuesta de 100. A continuación se dan algunos ejemplos. Fíjense que los dígitos se usan en orden y pueden formar un número como 67 u 89.

$$123 + 4 - 5 + 67 - 89 = 100 \quad 12 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 67 + 8 + 9 = 100$$

$$123 - 45 - 67 + 89 = 100 \quad 1 + 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 6 + 78 + 9 = 100$$

### Cuenta regresiva hasta cero

Se necesitan dos o más jugadores. Empiecen en cualquier número, como 20. El primer jugador cuenta en forma regresiva uno, dos o tres números. El siguiente jugador continúa desde el último número mencionado y cuenta en forma regresiva uno, dos o tres números. Gana la persona que cuente hasta cero.

### Halla la diferencia

Completa el problema de resta usando los dígitos del 1 al 9.

Hay más de 100 maneras posibles de resolver este problema. ¿Cuántas puedes encontrar?

-		

