



Dear Family,

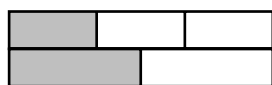
Your child has experience with fractions through comparisons, measurements, and remainders in division. Unit 5 of *Math Expressions* builds on this experience. The main goals of this unit are to:

- understand the meaning of fractions
- compare fractions with like and unlike denominators
- add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators
- multiply a fraction by a whole number and a whole number by a fraction

Your child will use fraction bars and fraction strips to gain a visual and conceptual understanding of fractions as parts of a whole. Later, your child will use these models to add and subtract fractions, convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers, and find equivalent fractions. Your child will also learn how to use a multiplication table to find equivalent fractions.

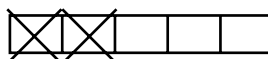
Examples of Fraction Bar Modeling:

Fraction Comparisons



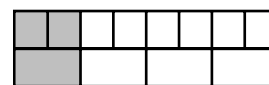
$$\frac{1}{3} < \frac{1}{2}$$

Fraction Subtraction



$$\frac{5}{5} - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$$

Equivalent Fractions



$$\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$$

In later lessons of this unit, your child will be introduced to the number-line model for fractions. Students name fractions corresponding to given lengths on the number line and identify lengths corresponding to given fractions. They also see that there are many equivalent fraction names for any given length.

Your child will apply this knowledge about fractions and fraction operations to solve mixed word problems, including problems involving probability and comparisons.

If you have questions or problems, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher