



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

October 11, 2024

Dear WPS Families,

At Wyoming Primary Schools, we are committed to supporting your child's growth in every aspect of their learning, including mathematics. One key area that greatly impacts their success in math is their understanding and use of mathematical vocabulary. Just as learning new words enhances your child's reading and writing abilities, mastering math terms is essential for developing a strong foundation in mathematical concepts. We would like to share some insights into why mathematical vocabulary is so important and how we teach and reinforce these critical terms in our classrooms.

Why is Mathematical Vocabulary Important?

Mathematical vocabulary is the language of math. Just as learning new words helps your child become a better reader and writer, understanding math terms helps them grasp mathematical concepts more clearly. Words like "sum," "difference," "greater than," and "equal to" are the building blocks of math. When children understand and use these words they can:

- **Communicate Ideas Clearly:** Knowing the correct terms allows students to explain their thinking more effectively. Whether they're solving a problem or discussing a concept with their classmates, precise language helps them articulate their ideas.
- **Understand Concepts Deeply:** Many math terms represent specific ideas or processes. For example, understanding the word "addend" (**means: a number which is added to another**) helps students grasp what happens in addition. When students know the vocabulary, they better understand the math behind the words.
- **Develop Problem-Solving Skills:** Math problems often include specific vocabulary that guides students on how to solve them. If a student knows what "difference" means, they can identify that they need to subtract, which helps them solve problems more accurately.

How Do Teachers Teach Math Vocabulary?

Our teachers use a variety of strategies to introduce and reinforce math vocabulary:

- **Interactive Discussions:** Teachers introduce new terms during lessons and encourage students to use them in their responses. This interactive approach helps students become familiar with the words in context.
- **Visual Aids:** Charts, diagrams, and math word walls are often used in classrooms. These visual tools help students see the vocabulary terms alongside examples, reinforcing their understanding.

- **Practice in Context:** Students are given opportunities to use math vocabulary in different settings—during group work, in math journals, and when explaining their thinking. This practice helps them internalize the terms and use them confidently.
- **Games and Activities:** Engaging activities, like math vocabulary bingo or matching games, make learning new terms fun. These activities provide repeated exposure, which is essential for retention.

How Can You Support at Home?

You can help reinforce math vocabulary at home by:

- **Talking About Math:** Use math vocabulary during everyday activities, like counting objects, measuring ingredients while cooking, or discussing time.
- **Reading Together:** Look for math-related books that introduce or reinforce concepts and vocabulary.
- **Asking Questions:** Encourage your child to explain how they solved a problem using math terms. This practice strengthens their understanding and communication skills.

Your child's teacher will share key math vocabulary with you at the start of each math unit this year. The purpose of this is to keep you informed about the words we are using so you can reinforce them at home as you talk to your child about their learning in math. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
 Dr. Gina Kirchner
 Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

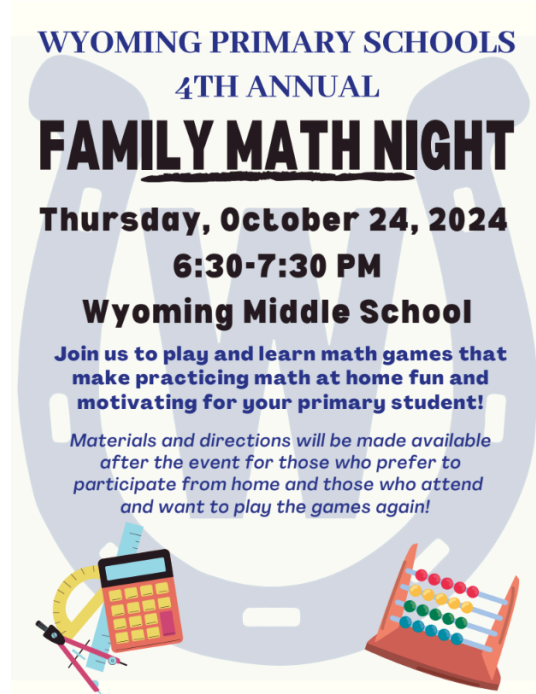
Counselor Corner

This week's Cowboy TV lessons focused on the book titled *The Coffee Bean for Kids*. The main character is a boy named Gavin. After noticing Gavin's downcast spirit, his teacher talks to him after school one day. She tells him that life is often like a pot of hot water because there can be harsh, stressful and difficult situations. Gavin's teacher says he can choose to be like a carrot that softens in boiling water, an egg that hardens, or a coffee bean that changes the water. Gavin's teacher further explains that people who act like carrots are weakened and softened by their surroundings; those like eggs are hardened when difficult things happen; and individuals who are like coffee beans overcome challenges and positively transform their environment. Gavin decides that he's going to listen to his teacher and do things to positively change his school experience. Gavin's positivity is contagious, and soon a group of students decide to start a Coffee Bean Club, a group with members who try to always be positive and be kind to everyone by helping others, including everyone, and smiling. Parents can encourage their children to bring positivity to different situations, just like members of the Coffee Bean Club.

Family Math Night

We are excited to invite Wyoming Primary School families and students to our fourth annual Family Math Night on Thursday, October 24th, at 6:30 PM at Wyoming Middle School! Parents

are encouraged to attend with their child for a fun-filled hour of engaging math games, designed specifically for each grade level. It's a great opportunity to support your child's learning while enjoying hands-on activities together. We look forward to seeing you there!



PSA Art Fundraiser

PSA is excited to share that we have a new vendor, Original Works (OW), for our primary fall art fundraiser. In addition to new products, our PSA will receive 30% of proceeds. Individual brochures, showcasing your students' artwork, will be sent home in Thursday folders on October 24.

Upcoming Dates

- **Third Grade Ohio State Test in Reading** - Tuesday, October 22nd, and Wednesday, October 23rd
- **Family Math Night** - Thursday, October 24th - 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wyoming Middle School
- **Halloween Parades & Parties** - Thursday, October 31st - (view and print [letter and permission slip](#))
- **Conference Day** - Friday, November 1 - No School for Students - (details were in yesterday's Thursday Folder)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- **Finance Friday:** Calculating the Net Impact of the WPS Bond Levy for Your Home
- **Parent Partnership Series this Tuesday, October 15:** Digital Balance - Navigating Technology with Your Kid
- Upcoming Events
- JWC Light Up kits discounted until Oct. 20