Dear Families:

This week, we continue to work on counting and graphing our collected data. We read the book, *Chrysanthemum,* and used this story to launch an activity that involved counting the number of letters in each of our names. Then we interpreted our data and plotted it on a name graph that is now on display in our classroom. Please stop by and take a look at our name graph soon!

We will be providing many opportunities for the children to tackle simple problems about data that come from a variety of familiar contexts. Nothing is more familiar than a child’s own name! Counting the number of letters in their names gives the children an opportunity to collect and organize data that is familiar to them. Using vocabulary such as **more**, **fewer** and **equal** enables the children to interpret the collected data and expand their mathematical thinking.

It’s easy to reinforce these mathematical skills at home or on the go. A great way to do this is to have your child help you take the clean silverware out of the dishwasher and sort the knives, spoons, forks and other utensils into piles on a counter or table. Once the dishwasher basket is emptied, count the utensils in each grouping. Ask questions such as: “How many forks? How many more spoons are there than forks?” You can even try to categorize some of the other utensils, asking questions like: “Where would the large fork that is shaped like a spoon go?”

Try it at home tonight and strengthen your child’s math skills while getting some help in the kitchen!