Dear Families:

This week, we continue to work on counting. With the information that we have gathered from our counting, we have been graphing our collected data. We read the book, *Chrysanthemum*, and then counted the letters in each of our names. We then interpreted our data and created a graph. Please stop by and take a look at our name graph at drop-off or pickup.

We will provide many more opportunities for the children to tackle simple problems about data. These problems will be taken from a number of familiar contexts. Nothing is more familiar than a child’s own name! Counting the 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.

You can easily reinforce these mathematical skills at home or on the go. When you are emptying the dishwasher, for example, ask your child to empty the silverware baskets and sort the silverware into piles on the kitchen counter or table. Then count the groups of utensils with your child and ask questions such as: “How many forks do we have? How many more spoons are there than forks?” You can even try to categorize some of the other utensils, asking questions such as: “Where would the large fork that is shaped like a spoon go?”

Have fun strengthening your child’s math skills while getting some help in the kitchen!