LETTER HOME
Reason with Shapes

Dear Family Member:

In this unit, we discuss area as the amount of surface covered by a shape. Your child will measure area, as well as related fraction concepts. He or she will find the area of various shapes by counting the number of full squares and piecing together halves and fourths of squares.
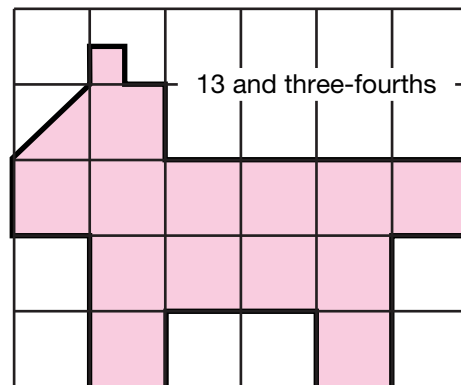
You can provide additional support at home.

- **Measure Areas.** If your home has a floor or wall covered with square tiles, ask your child to figure out the area of the surface by counting the number of square tiles.

- **Fair Share Questions.** Pose fair share questions and ask your child to solve them using a drawing. For example:

  Two friends share 3 sandwiches. How much sandwich does each child get?

- **Fraction Hunt.** Look for fractions in your house or at the store. For example, show your child a quarter-cup measuring cup. Use water to show that it takes four quarter-cup measures to fill one whole cup.

- **Area Estimation with Coins.** Trace various shapes—handprints, footprints, outlines of leaves, and so on—on a sheet of paper and have your child estimate how many pennies are needed to cover the shape. Then check the estimate by covering the shape. What happens to the number of coins needed if you change from pennies to dimes or quarters? Try it. Find two different shapes that can be covered by the same number of pennies.

13 and three-fourths

Students find the area by counting the number of square centimeters in a shape.

Math Facts and Mental Math

Students' fluency with the subtraction facts related to the addition facts in Group E will be assessed in this unit.

Group E: $11 - 1$, $11 - 10$, $12 - 2$, $12 - 3$, $12 - 4$, $12 - 5$, $12 - 7$, $12 - 8$, $12 - 9$, $12 - 10$, $13 - 3$, $13 - 4$, $13 - 5$, $13 - 8$, $13 - 9$, $13 - 10$, $14 - 5$, $14 - 9$

You can help your child review these facts using the flash cards sent home or by making a set of flash cards from index cards or scrap paper. Study the facts in small groups each night. As your child goes through the flash cards, put the cards in three stacks: Facts I Know Quickly, Facts I Can Figure Out, and Facts I Need to Learn.

For Facts I Need to Learn, work on strategies for figuring them out.

For Facts I Can Figure Out, use the flash cards to practice the facts for fluency.

For Facts I Know Quickly, help your child use strategies to solve problems like these using mental math: $120 - 80$ (practices $12 - 8$), $1400 - 900$ (practices $14 - 9$).

Sincerely,