



Dear Parents:

Next week's focus is Measurement and Data. We are in the middle of our final testing season, so data becomes extremely important for educators. We are a data driven society. We like to know statistics. How many are watching the weather? Next week I am asking you to track how many days we see sunshine or is there snow still in our forecast? Let's hope not. It will hit 80 degrees again soon! I am sure of it.

Measurement is something we don't consciously recognize as doing everyday, but we do measure all day long. We watch our speed as we drive, our time to make appointments, our spending etc. Kids track how many days are left of school. There are 31 by the way. Birthdays are also important. Kids count how many days until their birthday. Just ask them, they will also use fractions when describing their age, "I am $8 \frac{1}{2}$." These are all forms of measurement that are performed on a daily basis.

This week April 22 -26, I have collected some data. In keeping with the theme Game On! Play Math, I used the Summer Olympics in Paris this summer for my data collection. I surveyed the elementary students asking their favorite sport of the summer Olympics. There is a bulletin board that displays this data in each building. Out of 1,382 students surveyed across the district, Gymnastics was the favored Olympic sport with 285 votes. Soccer came in second with 284 votes. Other sports had the following votes: Basketball 227, Baseball 186, Swimming 173, Skateboarding 108, Volleyball 84 and Tennis 35. Share these statistics with your child. Share the votes alphabetically and have them find the landmarks highest, the lowest, the difference between the two. Is there a mode (the same amount of votes for different sports), the median (middle score) and the average- add up all the votes and divide by 8. The Summer Olympics is a great way to recognize all sorts of data and measurement with scores, distance, and time. Don't end the discussion in May, keep those math conversations going all summer.

We have also been collecting bread tags. The Math Intervention Team has been counting and charting what we have received. Students across the district have collected 19,224 bread tags the first week in their classrooms. We almost have surpassed our goal in one week. These donations have been well received these past three years. So many local businesses and food services have been saving all year. I always think I have a good goal set at first, but then we knock it out of the park. It is a good way for kids to use their math skill. I will share our final totals in one last letter on May 3. Some other activities your child can participate in are listed on the Math & Statistic Awareness Calendar.

Here are even more [ideas](#): books to read, videos and songs, activities and recipes to try utilizing measurement and data.

Bread tag collection ends this year on April 30th. Thanks for your support.

Math Counts - Carmen Tawney - LAS Elementary Math Coordinator