Miss Wiltjer's Newsletter
Pre-Algebra/Algebra I

THIS MONTH

This month in Pre-Algebra, students spent the majority of the month working on percent problems. Students started their study of percents by learning to work with percents by converting them to decimals and fractions. In addition, students learned some key phrases to help translate sentences into mathematical equations.

After their first quiz, the students began to work towards improving their understanding of percents by learning of their applications. We discussed the percent change formula in which one can figure out what the change in an amount is by comparing the new amount to the old amount. Then, students began investigating the application of percents in real world situations. These applications included tax rates, sales tax, commission rates, and simple interest.

In addition, students took some time to practice their problem solving skills by solving two problems as a class. The first problem was called Mary's Garden. This problem had to do with a young girl, Mary, and the flowers she grew in her garden. Students were given that the garden had ¼ of the garden filled with red flowers, $\frac{2}{5}$ of the remainder were yellow, and the rest were pink. Then, the students had to figure out how many flowers were in the garden. The second problem was called the Potato problem. In this problem, students were introduced to Fred and his very mathematical potatoes that were 100 pounds of which 99% was water. He left his potatoes out over night and upon waking, found they were now only 98% water. Students were to determine how many pounds the potatoes now weighed.

NEXT MONTH

Students will tackle Probability as they work through October. While working on Probability, you can expect students to work on a class project that will involve them creating a game of probability.

QUESTION YOUR STUDENT

Here are some questions you can ask your student to see how well he or she understands the material from this month:

◎ How do you change a fraction to a percent?

◎ How do you change a repeating fraction to a percent?

◎ Rewrite as an equation: What percent of 72 is 63?

◎ How would you find the commission rate if you knew the total sales?

◎ If you know the time, interest amount, and principal, how do you find the interest rate of a loan?

Remember, if you're looking for your student to show they're understanding, they should be able to explain these concepts to you with minimal pausing and searching for words.

WISH TO DONATE?

If you are looking to help by donating items to my class, I can use the following items:

- Fine-tipped Expo/Dry-Erase markers

- Rolls of Butcher Paper