Pen Pal Pointers: Week 4

- Please leave the grade sheet (blue) in your journal. I will remove it each week before delivering the journals and then put it back before I return the journals to you. Your pen pal will not see your grades.
- **Grade Last Week’s Problem:** If your pen pal answered your question, grade it in a polite, non-judgmental way. Use check marks and write notes so they (and I) can tell the problem has been graded. If they were wrong, make sure you explain why and show them how you wanted them to do the problem. **Be careful,** if they did the problem correctly, but not exactly how you wanted, do not say they are wrong. For example, if they identified a trapezoid as a quadrilateral, they are correct.
- Use praise words only when appropriate. Don’t write “GREAT!” if they got the problem wrong – write “Good Effort.”
- **Answer Their Problem:** If they sent you a problem, make sure you answer it. **Show your method** and all of your steps. You should not say you used a calculator (and you should not use a calculator). If their question is unclear, try to answer what you thought they meant and ask them for help understanding the problem. (Check with me if you do not understand your question or how to answer it. I can help!)
- Be sure to answer all of the child’s questions about you.
- Do not correct your pen pal’s grammatical mistakes. We are math teachers, so we will only grade the math.
- **Do not send presents.** (Even if your pen pal sent you something.)
- Your letter should be about ¼ to one page of your normal handwriting. You should put your math problem on the next page.
- Your journals are due at the beginning of Monday’s class. You should have your letter finished when you arrive.

This Week’s Problem

The students are working on measuring angles. Think of a creative problem that requires the students to measure an angle. Clearly specify which angle the student is supposed to measure. Make sure your angle is big enough to measure easily. Use a ruler to make sure the rays of your angle are straight. Send a few basic angles to measure as well.
Example
Sarah’s cat Fluffy got stuck in a tree and her dad had to use a ladder to get Fluffy down. Measure the angle between the ladder and the ground. Is the angle acute, obtuse, or right?

Measure and identify each of the following angles as well.