Problem of the Week

Number sense is significant and is often discussed by educators when discussing student learning. I wanted to provide tasks that would address basic operations while highlighting mathematical vocabulary – sum, difference, product. The tasks are meant to be open-ended so that discussion can support understanding.

I have attempted to create tasks that may be novel to students so that they are applying their problem solving strategies to arrive at the solution. As always, I will provide opportunities for primary, elementary and secondary.

Be mindful that during these prompts, it is important the teacher listens to student conversations and asks questions that illicit student thinking.

Primary	I have two numbers. Both numbers have two digits. When I subtract the smallest number from the largest, I have a difference of 24. When I add the two numbers, I have a sum of approximately 85. What could the two numbers be?

Elementary	I have two numbers. One number is a two-digit whole number while the other is a decimal number with one digit to the left of the decimal and one digit to the right of the decimal. When I subtract the smallest number from the largest, I have a difference of approximately 21. When I multiply the two numbers I have a product of approximately 90. What would be the sum of the two numbers?

Intermediate	I have two numbers with two digits to the left of the decimal and two digits to the right of the decimal. When I subtract the smallest number from the largest, I have a difference of approximately 12. When I multiply the two numbers I have a product of approximately 950. What would be the sum of the two numbers?