Problem of the Week

Number sense is significant and is often stressed by educators when discussing student learning. I wanted to provide tasks that would address decomposing numbers, comparing numbers, and working with sums and differences. The tasks are meant to be open-ended so that discussion can support understanding.

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

Primary	A school was collecting pine cones for a display. This collection was quite large, having just less than 1000. One class, Grade 2X, donated most of the pine cones. The remainder of the collection was donated by three other classes. What amounts could each class have donated to the pine cone collection? How many more marbles were collected by 2X than the other classes?

Elementary	A school was collecting books for their library. There were five classes that donated books. - Grade 5X donated $\frac{2}{6}$ of the books. - Grade 4Y donated $\frac{1}{4}$ of the books. What fraction of books could have been donated by the remaining three classes.

Intermediate	A school was nearing the end of their annual fundraiser. During the fundraiser, there were costs that came up: - The cost of making a new sign for the fundraising initiative was almost one-fifth of their fundraised amount. - The cost of booking the local theatre for presentations was almost half of their fundraised amount. The school had slightly more than $2000 remaining. What was the amount of funds the school initially raised? What could the cost of the sign and theatre have been?