Problem of the Week

When working with operations, it can be advantageous for students to consider equality amongst expressions. 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	There is an expression on both sides of the equal sign. Each number is made with different digits from 1-9. One side of the equal sign has an addition sign while the other side has a subtraction sign. What could the equation be?
Extension • The digits 1-9 are all used only one time. • There is more than one operation on each side of the equal sign. • State the number of digits to be used in some or all the numbers.	

Elementary	There is an expression on both sides of the equal sign. Both whole numbers and decimal numbers can be used. Each number is made with different digits from 1-9. Only three of the operations are used. One side of the equal sign has two operations while the other side has one operation. What could the equation be?
Extension • Each of the digits can only be used up to two times. • Different number of signs on either side of the equal sign. • State the operations to be used.	

December 10, 2024

Intermediate	There is an expression on both sides of the equal sign. There are both proper and improper fractions. Each number is made with different digits from 1-9. Only three of the operations are used. One side of the equal sign has two operations while the other side has one operation. What could the equation be?
Extension • Each of the digits can only be used up to two times. • Different number of signs on either side of the equal sign. • State the operations to be used.	