What’s the Secret Code?

Learning to persevere in math – What does this mean?
Think about a time you didn’t know how to solve a problem. What did you do? Did you eventually figure out how to do it? This is called perseverance, and is an important skill to practice while learning math. Here are some things to try when you come across a problem that you are struggling with:

- Try a different strategy
- Ask yourself: “Does the way I’m trying to solve this problem make sense? Why or why not?”
- Call a friend for help
- Take a break, and come back with a new idea
- Check your work

You Try
Complete the “What’s the Secret Code?” task on page 55 of the optional learning packet. Try one or two of the strategies listed above to help you along the way.


Show me what you know (Proof of learning)
Write a journal entry that describes how you persevered through solving the Secret Code activity. Give specific examples of which strategies you used.

Self-Assessment
Reflect on your learning! How well do you understand? Rate yourself: 1 = I still have questions, 2 = I get it. 3 = I could teach someone this!

Extra Learning Opportunities
Count the number of leaves in your yard (or at the park, a friend’s house, etc.). Do you think the number of leaves will be the same tomorrow? What about in the fall, winter, and spring? What evidence do you have to support your conjecture?