Synopsis: This webinar provides an overview of additive thinking, focusing on the different strategies for addition and subtraction in the elementary years.

Key Understandings
Additive thinking is:
- A capacity to work flexibly with the concepts, strategies and representations of addition and subtraction
- Going beyond memorization of basic arithmetic skills
- The means to communicate additive understanding effectively in a variety of ways

Instructional Practices
- Students benefit from thinking flexibly. They need to see that:
  - 9 + 4 is the same as 10 + 3
  - 76 – 38 is the same as 78 - 40
- Different strategies are available like:
  - Making 10
  - Using doubles
  - Using the commutative property
- Different tools are beneficial to different students:
  - Base Ten Blocks
  - Ten Frames
  - Number Lines
  - Math Racks

Questions for Discussion
- Can you find more than one way to add 18 and 37?
- How do we help students to better communicate their strategies?

Reflection
- How might you know if your students have a solid understanding of additive thinking?
- What am I already doing in my classroom to support the development of additive thinking?
- What is one strategy I can add to my "classroom toolbox" to support the development of additive thinking?

For more information
- Please visit our online learning guide at: http://learning.arpdc.ab.ca
- Visit your local consortium’s website to view upcoming learning opportunities, or to discuss customized follow-up possibilities.

Acknowledgement:
The Elementary Mathematics Professional Learning project is led by ARPDC and funded through a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation.

When relationships are the focus, there are far fewer facts to remember.”
- (Cathy Fosnot, 2007)