RECEIVED APR 20 1994

Dear Math Professors,

We are 1st and 2nd graders at Saunders County District 50 School in Ithaca, Nebraska. We love to work with big numbers and have been doing it all year! Every time we read something with a big number in it we try to write it. Then our teacher explains how to write it. We are getting pretty good at writing millions and billions!

We have a problem that we need your help with. We were reading amazing 'Super Mom' facts in a Kid City magazine. It told how many eggs some animals could lay. We came across a number that we don't know. It had a 2 and then a 1 followed by 105 zeros!! We wrote the number out and it stretches clear across our classroom! We know about a googol. We looked it up in the dictionary. A googol has 100 zeros. Then what do you call a number if it has more than 100 zeros? Is there a name for it? Another problem is that we learned about using commas in large numbers. In the magazine article they used no commas when writing this large number. That confused us. Also, if you write a 'googol' with 100 zeros, how do you put the commas in? It doesn't divide evenly into groups of 3 zeros. There will be one left over.

We would appreciate any help you can give us solving this "big" problem. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mallory Bergwell
Dave Wageman
Brian Murray
David Swetson
Mrs. Teetor

Mrs. Teetor's 1st & 2nd graders
Mallory Bergwell David Swetson
David Wageman Brian Murray

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Apple Of My Eye

The tiny female apple aphid is a champ as an egg-layer. This insect can lay as many as 21000000000000 0000000000000000000000 0000000000000000000000 0000000000000000000000 0000000000000000000000 0000 eggs in 10 months.