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#### News from Ms. Barry (February 2016)

##### Stepping Up to the Ratio Challenge

Ms. Barry's students have been diligently working on ratio word problems involving change. Ratio problems look at the relative sizes of two or more values. In other words, if you have a school classroom that has two boy students for every girl student, the ratio of boys to girls is two to one, or 2:1.

Ratio problems can be really tricky. Sometimes these multi-step problems are so challenging that we spend 15, 30, or even 45 minutes on one problem! Our students love to rise to the challenge, and have grown so much in their math skills with these complex problems. They often use bar models (drawings using bars to help students visualize the numbers) to help solve them. In fact, we wanted to challenge YOU to read and solve one of the ratio problems that we have been working on. Read the sentence below this paragraph and see if you can figure out. If you can't figure it out, click on the picture to the right to see how one of our students solved it. Good luck and please ask one of our ratio experts in either class to help you get the correct answer!



**Problem:** John and Donte each had an equal amount of money. After John spent \$25 and Donte spent \$18, the ratio of John's money to Donte's money was 2:3. How much money did each boy have before they spent their money? Remember, you can click on the picture to see the solution!