

KUMON connections

Your Local Center Newsletter



**Esme Rocks the Mouse
Ears and Math!**

Dear Kumon Families,

After a summer full of achievements, I am really excited to be heading into the school year. I'm just so proud of all the work my students (and their families) fit into their summers. Several students achieved level G study – working above grade level (Algebra in the 4th and 5th grade!) and feeling so strong academically. Equally impressive are younger students attacking complicated arithmetic. And it makes my heart sing to hear these students read out loud with confidence. Soooooo Cool! Look on the back for this month's list of "Rock Stars!" - you all deserve a pat on the back for time well spent over the summer.

Extension of summer **CONTEST** ☺ I did not count on Mr Popper's Penguin's going out of the theaters so quickly, so I'm extending this contest by 2 months for the movie to come out on DVD...

For **Students. Kumon Reading Challenge: Book/Movie review contest.** Did you know the new movie "Mr Popper's Penguins" is based on a classic children's book? The book is #CII-11 on the Kumon Recommended Reading List (RRL). My challenge to you is to write a short review of "Mr Popper's Penguins." Read the book (have fun!); Go see the movie (have fun!); Write your review: Which did you like better, the book or the movie? What were the similarities and differences? Would you recommend them to a friend?

Best Entry will receive **5 tickets (a gift card!)** and will be featured in the next newsletter. Entries due October 31st.

As student's work gets more difficult, many parents ask how best to help them through. Avoid trying to teach them yourself or doing the work for them. Remember the work itself can be rigorous, but not impossible. Congratulate your student on **working through examples** and tough calculations. Encourage them to ask for help in class, and feel free to ask me for clarification on how steps are taught! If you would like to schedule a **conference** to talk about your student's progress, please let me know. Conferences are after class, Monday evenings, 7:15 or 7:45.

Here's to an amazing school year!

Jennifer Jensen (Miss Jenn ☺)

Book Club News: My boys and I are embarking on a Journey into Tolkein's world. Starting with **The Hobbit**, we are reading through the **Lord of the Rings** series, one chapter at a time. We will have an informal book club, with meetings to discuss, maybe even movie screenings, later. If you are interested in joining us, let me know via email.

Hana completed her first book tracker, reading and recording 50 books! She just could not pick a favorite, but does recommend everyone read **Dr. Suess**. "He writes a lot of books, and he would be very happy if people read his books!" Way to go Hana, enjoy your prize!!



The center will be **OPEN** on Labor Day.

be truly amazing

Kumon of Tacoma North End

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Center Hours

Mon/3-7
Thurs/3-7

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN

KUMON Math A Firm Foundation for Success

In March 2008, the National Mathematics Advisory Panel issued a report based on their research of the U.S. mathematics curriculum.

In Chapter Four of the panel's report entitled "Foundations for Success," the writer addresses "Critical Foundations for Algebra," which are skills necessary to excel in high school algebra courses. The first two mentioned are fluency with whole numbers and fluency with fractions. In KUMON's Levels 7A through D, students are taken from basic number counting to addition and subtraction. Only after students have mastered addition and subtraction do they go on to study multiplication and division. The KUMON Program follows a linear approach, in slow, manageable steps, based on each student's abilities.

By the time a student reaches the worksheets on fractions, he has fully mastered the four arithmetic operations. He is then ready to apply these four operations to fractions. Students learn the proper intermediate steps so that the most complex-looking calculations of fractions and mixed numbers can be done confidently.

KUMON's Math Program emphasizes self-learning, so students will not only have mastered the basic concepts of math, but they will have done so by self-learning. This makes it much more likely that they will have great success in their high school algebra courses.

The report highlights some major differences between the U.S. math curriculum and those of top-performing countries. It says that the "U.S. curricula typically include many topics at each grade level, with each receiving relatively limited development, while top-performing countries present fewer topics at each grade level but in greater depth." It restates that a typical top-performing country's curriculum "expects proficiency in the topics that are presented before more complex or difficult topics are introduced."

Ultimately, the recommendation from the panel is that "a focused, coherent progression of mathematics learning, with an emphasis on proficiency with key topics should become the norm in elementary and middle school mathematics curricula. Any approach that continually revisits topics year after year without closure is to be avoided." All of these descriptions regarding other countries' curricula and the panel's recommendations exactly describe the KUMON Math Program, which emphasizes proficiency, mastery, and a linear progression.



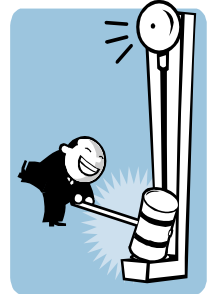
Happy Birthday!

**Brady, Joseph, Austynn, Henry, Raghav, Evan,
Morgan, Leah, Carson, Lili, Annie, Sophie B, Cade,
Milana, Zach, Abigail, Sierra, Sara, Kona and
Jordin**

KUMON ROCK STARS

The following students moved up
a Kumon level in July and
August!

Math: Lili,
Raghav, Shelby,
Anna, Logan,
Jataya, Angelo,
Zada, Claire,
Sophie B., Cade,
Aspen, Henry,
Ryan, Jessica,
Cooper, Samantha, Sonia,
Eva, Olivia, Carson, Carol,
Austynn, Max, Yana, Brian,
Nicholas, Leah, Emmanuel,
Pat, Adrianna, Ashley,
Courtney, Jonathan, Danny,
Hope, Audrey, Drew, Seth,
Anneliese, Carmen, Tate,
Lannie! ☺



Reading: Lili, Evan, JR, Cade,
Aspen, Milana, Kennedy,
Henry, Cooper, Aries, Sonia,
Tim, Stella, Zach, Esme,
Shea, Morgan, Sierra,
Jonathan, Jacob, Lissa, Hope,
Drew Y, Lara, Seth, Andrew T,
Dylan! ☺

**Evan, Tim and
Jonathan -- Great work
achieving G by 5th
Grade!**

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