

News from KUMON of University Village

**KUMON of
University Village**

Center Hours

Mondays
Tuesdays
Thursdays

2:30-7:00 pm

**Center Closed
Monday, 8/31-
Monday, 9/7**

August 2009

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www.kumonofseattle.com

KUMON Study Helps Recapture Your Child's Joy For Learning

Humans have an innate desire to learn. Young children exhibit a natural curiosity and love for learning. Unfortunately, by the time many children are teenagers this love for learning has been lost. It may be due to negativity from parents, pressure from teachers or teasing from other kids. But this love can be recaptured.

For older kids, the first step is to regain self-confidence and self-esteem. In KUMON, this is accomplished by starting at the **comfortable starting point**, where they can experience immediate success. As the parent it is crucial that you NEVER say things like, "This work is too easy", or, "You should know this. You learned this years ago." This is a sure way to undermine your child's self-confidence.

As your child begins to advance in KUMON, please never comment about the number of mistakes being made. Instead, encourage your child's learning by recognizing and acknowledging their improvements, no matter how small. **Mistakes are a natural part of learning**, and are valuable tools in determining where to focus study.

We sometimes hear parents say things such as, "He's in 5th grade. He needs to be in multiplication (or fractions, or algebra.....)" when the student is still working their way through the critical addition and subtraction levels 3A, 2A & A in math. Please remember that our goal here at KUMON is the same is yours-to help your child move ahead as quickly as possible through the curriculum, so that schoolwork is easier and faster. In KUMON, your child is always moving ahead from a point of strength and mastery. They are never at a deficit.

KUMON students *earn* their way to the higher, advanced levels. They earn this advanced status through **commitment to daily study, mastery of the basics and development of self-learning skills**. Once a student has invested the time and effort to establish the firm foundation that the beginning levels of KUMON provide, they will have the "**power tools**" needed to handle the more rigorous and challenging work that they will encounter in middle school, high school and in college.

A parent recently questioned why his child had to repeat certain sections in a level. Although his child could answer the problems correctly and quickly, she was using her fingers to count. She still did not have the mental calculation skills that KUMON allows every student to develop.

Another parent was concerned that his daughter was in 4th grade, had been enrolled in the math program for a year, and was still "only" in Level B, finishing the borrowing section of subtraction. I sat down with this dad, and yes, his daughter was not yet at multiplication. But when we looked at the worksheets, we saw that his daughter was able to do triple-digit subtraction mentally and quickly, without having to do all of the crossing out that students with weak math skills need to do. Plus, she was doing so much better in school and no longer cried each night while doing math

homework. Needless to say, he was impressed.

Please do not underestimate the power of building a strong foundation in math and reading. Please allow your child the gift of the time that they need to truly master the work at hand. **The gift of mastery** is a gift that will last their entire lives. As the mother of a Harvard Law School student and a 2009 college graduate who is teaching science in Hawaii with Teach for America, I can guarantee you that this gift will pay for itself exponentially in the future!

And please remember-my staff and I have the same goals that you have for your child-to help them make fast and smooth progress in their KUMON, so that sooner rather than later it is transferring over into improved self-confidence, high achievement in school, development of self-learning skills and a bright future filled with possibility.

Please read the letter below for a first-hand example of the benefits of KUMON study....

KUMON Power Tools

"Dear Jeannie,

A small note to tell you about a small KUMON miracle we experienced today at our house. Maddie was doing math homework this evening, focused on Fibonacci numbers and fractals. Setting up the problems took some time, but she clearly had such a solid grasp of her fundamentals and worked with a confidence I don't remember seeing before. She was multiplying 3 digit by 2 digit numbers in her head, and manipulating fractions with no hesitation. I remember not too long ago, when math homework each night felt as if someone had asked her to build a house. She didn't even know how to approach the tasks at hand, and felt overwhelmed. KUMON has given her constant practice with the math power tools she needs. I watch her reach for the right tool to accomplish the task at hand like an old pro. Step-by-step, the progress is sometimes slow, but it's steady and very visible. Thanks to you and your staff for all you do!

Leslie M."

Reading Challenge Wraps Up on Aug. 31

Our *Summer Reading Challenge* ends on Aug.31. We are closed that week for the Labor Day holiday, and so will be

collecting the Book Trackers the week of Sept. 10.

Please remember that all books students are planning to count towards their reading goal need to be recorded in the Book Tracker. That extra week in September will give those who need it the chance to get caught up with their Book Tracker.

By now students should be well towards reaching their reading goal. If you are finding that the ambitious goal your child set at the beginning of the summer seems unrealistic, please help them to adjust the goal to something more achievable. You can write the goal at the top of the Book Tracker. Please check our website, www.kumonofseattle.com, for a list of great books by grade level. You'll find it on our home page.

We are planning our **Annual Make-Your-Own Sundae Ice Cream** party for late September. All students who meet their goal will be invited to attend. It's always a ton of fun and this year it should be even better with *One Hour Parties*, hosted by KUMON mom Wendy Trieger, setting it up for us. We'll also return the Book Trackers at the party. These are a wonderful keepsake of a summer spent reading.

Summer Blessings

We are *not* going to complain about the glorious weather we've been having! My garden is bursting like never before. I can hardly keep up with it! My twins just finished their pre-calculus class at the Robinson Center at UW. Tom is busy lifeguarding at our pool and practicing for Varsity tennis at Roosevelt. Poor Peter broke his collarbone at football camp in June and, sadly for him, the highlight of his summer has been the math class! Fingers crossed that he can play QB sometime this fall season. Daughter Sara finished her 6 week training in Houston and has already started teaching at a high school in Hawaii with Teach for America. I'll be visiting her over Labor Day. Jamie just ended his summer job with a law firm in NYC (Skadden Arps). He's ready for some R&R before starting his third year at Harvard Law school. He'll visit Sara in Hawaii and be home in Seattle for a few weeks before school starts.

I am blessed with my own family, my staff and with the opportunity to work with your amazing children. I count my blessings every day.