

## KUMON of Seattle

### University Village

Monday & Thursday

2:30-7:00 p.m.

NOTE: Closed 2/20 & 2/23  
for Mid-Winter Break

### Queen Anne at Interbay

Tuesday & Friday

3:00-6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Closed 2/21 & 2/24  
For Mid-Winter Break

## February 2012

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Through KUMON

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I *love* this article and print it every year as a Valentine's gift for our families...

### Learning to *Love* Through KUMON

There are many different kinds of *love* and even more ways to express it. The best kind of *love*, though, is the kind through which both the giver and the recipient can grow.

Naturally, we parents *love* our children. The expression of this parental devotion is the everyday giving of unconditional *love*. One of the greatest manifestations of *love* which parents can give our children each day is the wonderful gift of KUMON. KUMON is just that- a gift of *love*.

KUMON really is like *love*-you have to work at it. There are good days when it is easy and everything goes smoothly. Then there are days when the thrill is gone. Nevertheless, our children can learn to *love* learning through their work in KUMON.

Parents can help keep the KUMON affair passionate by:

- Providing praise and encouragement
- Showing sincere interest in your child's daily progress
- Homegrading the KUMON homework every day
- Demonstrating to your child that their academic success is a priority through your continuing commitment to their KUMON study

In the beginning stages of KUMON study it is easy to inspire new students' infatuation. Gradually, as the novelty wears off and the "honeymoon" is over, children need parental guidance, support and discipline to remain devoted to their work. Parents need to take to heart the importance of faithfulness to KUMON; the only way to realize all the benefits is through long-term commitment. Just as with *love*, this is not always easy but is definitely worth it.

KUMON is one of the best Valentines' Day presents that we can give our children. It will not melt like ice cream, cause cavities like candy, or wilt like a rose. KUMON is a Valentine you give your child 365 days a year.

### KUMON and the Chinese Bamboo

In the far east, people plant a tree called the **Chinese Bamboo**. During the first four years they water and fertilize the plant with seemingly little or no results. Then in the fifth year they again apply water and fertilizer-and in five weeks' time the tree grows ninety feet in height!

The obvious question is: Did the Chinese Bamboo grow ninety feet in five weeks, or did it grow ninety feet in five years? The answer is: It grew ninety feet in five years. If at any point during those five years the people had stopped watering and fertilizing the tree, it would have died.

There are many times when our dreams and plans appear not to be succeeding. We are tempted to give up and quit trying. Instead, we need to continue to water and fertilize those dreams and plans, nurturing the seeds of the vision we have within us. We know that if we do not quit-if we display perseverance and endurance-we will reap a bountiful harvest.

The goal that you have for your child in KUMON may be algebra or calculus in math, paraphrasing or summation in reading. It may be to develop strong daily study skills, independence or to build self-confidence-or a combination of some or all of these! Whatever your goal is, the KUMON Method is a tool that will water and fertilize your child's ability to succeed, excel and achieve those goals.

The longer a student is in the KUMON program, the more nourishment they will have to grow. Repetition of worksheets with speed and accuracy on a daily basis is the water and fertilizer needed for solid growth of academic skills.

As in the growth of Chinese Bamboo, the effects of long-term study in KUMON may not appear in students until they have been studying for quite a while. But if they do not quit and keep working hard every day they will most definitely reap a rich harvest.

### Snow Day Policy

What a wild week in January! Our snow day policy is posted on our website, under the policy link. We follow the Seattle Public Schools snow day closures. Even though the weather was not terrible on the Tuesday afternoon that the storm was heading our way, since the schools were closed, we closed our center early.

Quite a few years ago, before we adopted this snow policy, there was a snow/ice storm in Seattle. We did not close, even though the roads were treacherous, especially after dark. A very dedicated parent tried to bring her children to the center and was in a serious accident on the way.

If Seattle Public schools are closed due to bad weather, we will be closed, as well. We will post this on our website homepage and calendar, announce it on our center voice message and send an email out to all parents.

If you didn't get an email informing you of the center closures in January, then we don't have your most current email address. Please either send me an email at [Jeannie@kumonofseattle.com](mailto:Jeannie@kumonofseattle.com), or let Robyn know your most current contact info so that you are in the loop.

In the event of school and center snow days, we will put the work out for all students who are scheduled to attend class that day. In UVillage it will be at the top of the steps. At Interbay we have waterproof file boxes that we put to the left of the door, next to the large planter.

### Cell Phone Manners

From time to time we get feedback from parents regarding the use of cell phones for personal calls in the waiting. Please be considerate of others and take your cell phone conversation outside of the waiting room. Thank you!

**Happy Valentines Day!**