

News from KUMON of University Village

**KUMON of  
University Village**

**Center Hours**

Mondays  
Tuesdays  
Thursdays

2:30-7:00 pm

**Center Closed  
Monday, May 31  
Memorial Day**

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**May 2010**

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**Inside this Issue**

**1 Our First KUMON  
Student**

**2 Shop To Make A  
Difference 20%  
Annual Tuition  
Discount**

**3 Summer Vacation  
Schedules**

**4 Summer Reading  
Challenge**

**5 READERS to  
EATERS**

**Our First KUMON Student**

Anyone who has sat through an orientation knows “Jamie’s story”. When my oldest son, Jamie, was a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at AE2 (now Thornton Creek), it felt to him—and to me—that math was impossible. He was saying things like, “I hate math”, “Everyone’s smarter than me”, and “I’m stupid.” These were fighting words for me. I knew he was capable but I just didn’t know how to help him.

I went to the local book store and bought a bunch of drill books, determined to work with Jamie for an hour each day to help turn this situation around. But, I didn’t really know what he needed or what was missing for him in terms of his math. This approach immediately turned into a battle with me yelling, Jamie crying and the frustration level in our house out the roof.

I found KUMON when I was talking with a neighbor, in just the same way that most of you have found us. I literally crossed my fingers when we walked into that KUMON center 17 years ago. I had no idea what KUMON was or what to expect. All I wanted was for Jamie to not feel stupid and to not hate math. At that time I simply wanted him to be OK. I wasn’t expecting or even hoping for more than that.

He started at Level 4A-counting apples. When he stopped doing KUMON in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, he had completed Level M and was pulling an A in his AP calculus class.

He went on to earn a BA in Economics at Loyola, New Orleans and then teach math in NYC for Teach for America. This month he graduates from *Harvard Law School*. My son. He will take the bar exam for California this summer, and for NY next spring. He will clerk for a federal judge in the NYC 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court this fall, and then has a job with Skadden Arps, a law firm in NYC.

We’ll all be at his graduation the last week of May. Sara is flying in from Hawaii. David Souter, who just retired from the Supreme Court, will be the commencement speaker. I want to see the room where Elle Woods gave her valedictorian speech in “Legally Blonde” (☺). As you can imagine, we are all thrilled and so proud of what Jamie has accomplished.

What I want to say to all of our parents who trust their children to my staff and I is never stop believing in your kids. You’re all here in our center because you believe in their potential, their ability and their futures. So do we. Do whatever it takes to support them, to help them and to find the resources they need to succeed.

They may end up accomplishing more than you ever dared to dream for them.

## Shop to Make a Difference

Our KUMON Center is participating in the University Village "Shop to Make a Difference" campaign again this May. We are offering **20% off of annual tuition** with the purchase of a \$25 Cure Card and tuition payment between Monday, May 10-Tuesday, May 18.

We are proud to support such a great cause! We are also pleased to be able to offer this substantial discount to our families. However, it's only available on the days listed above, so please don't miss it if you are interested in this great opportunity.



Cure Cards are available at the reception desk. Robyn can help you with your payment and answer any questions you might have.

## Summer Vacation Schedules

Boy, are we ready for summer! Summer Vacation Schedules are coming home with this newsletter. Please use them to let us know when you'll be away on your great summer adventure! They also include the days the Center will be closed this summer (these are also listed on the Calendar link on our website, [www.kumonofseattle.com](http://www.kumonofseattle.com)). Extras vacation schedules are available at the reception desk.

## Summer Reading Challenge-A New Theme!

Our annual Summer Reading Challenge will run from June 21-August 31 this year. It will follow the same format as previous years where all students who participate will get a free, super-cool T-shirt (I wonder what color it will be this year?!), a Book Tracker and an invitation to our famous Make-Your-Own-Ice-Cream Sundae party in September. But there are a few exciting additions to the challenge this summer. We're partnering with a local food literacy organization called "READERS to EATERS" (see below). We'll have a food theme to our reading challenge this year. All students will be required to read one food book as part of the challenge. This could include anything food related, and there is so much to choose from! We'll be sending home a list from READERS to EATERS of suggestions, a book order form, as well as "foodie" books from our own KUMON Recommended Reading list.

We're also hoping to partner with Barnes&Noble and other shops in UVillage for our reading challenge. This is still in the works. We'll have more info in the June newsletter.

**READERS to EATERS** is an organization that promotes food literacy from the ground up. They do so by:

- Selling retail books about food for adults and children. We will have some of their books available for you to look through in the waiting room. Their mobile bookstore sells books at food functions such as farmers markets, harvest festivals, food film festivals, and conferences for nutritionists and school teachers.
- Publishing books about food for children and their families. These books showcase the passion, history and stories behind our foodways.
- Developing educational programs about our food systems by partnering with farmers, gardeners, chefs, teachers, librarians, parents, community organizations and, now, with our KUMON Center!

Food literacy is defined simply as knowing what we eat and where our food comes from. Literacy is frequently used to describe the basic knowledge of reading and writing. Literacy is the foundation of communication. Yet this foundation is often missing in the discussion of our foodways. By gaining basic knowledge about where our food comes from, we can have a better appreciation of what we eat, make better food choices, and make a positive impact on our body, our mind, our community, and the world. After all, interest in food has no boundaries. Together we can create a rich, healthy, diverse, and inclusive food culture.

We'll be offering our families the opportunity to purchase books from READERS to EATERS in June with a book order. We'll have more information about this, as well as list of the books available to purchase, in our next newsletter.

You can find a list of upcoming READERS to EATERS events at <http://bit.ly/43iiBk>. Thanks!