

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL CENTER

**KUMON of Seattle**  
**University Village**

Monday & Thursday

2:30-7:00 p.m.

**Queen Anne at**  
**Interbay**

Tuesday & Friday

3:00-6:00 p.m.

---

**September 2011**

---

**Inside this Issue**

**1** Back to School with  
KUMON

**2** Building Smarter  
Brains

**3** Reading Challenge  
Party on Sunday,  
9/25 from 12-2

**4** Parent  
Communication

**5** Thank You for Your  
Commitment to  
KUMON!

[www.kumonofseattle.com](http://www.kumonofseattle.com)

**Back to School -Staying on Track with KUMON – A Few Simple Tips**

It seems like summer never really got started, and suddenly the new school year has begun. Recently, we've had several parents ask for advice on how to keep their kids motivated and on track with their KUMON, especially as the schedule fills up with various activities.

There are several simple things you can do right away that will have a big impact on getting daily KUMON done without a hassle. Give one or all of these a try for one week and see if things don't improve:

- If your child is coming to class once a week, **come in twice a week**. Coming to class more often really helps to break up the week and take the pressure off at home to stay on top of KUMON.
- **Homegrade your child's KUMON every day**. This, more than anything else, will help your child to stay on track with their daily KUMON and avoid having to do multiple sets in one agonizing day. Homegrading helps you to make sure that the daily KUMON has been done, and also demonstrates to your child that you are doing your part to help them to keep their commitment to daily study. It also gives them the opportunity to correct and learn from their mistakes, which helps make the next KUMON sets much easier. Answer books are available for you to take home.
- **KUMON after breakfast**. I can't say enough about how helpful this was for me when my kids were younger! Pull the cereal bowl away, put the KUMON packet with a pencil in its place. It's a relief for students to have already accomplished something important early in the day and not have KUMON hanging over their heads later on.
- **Keep it manageable**. Oftentimes students who struggle to stay on top of their daily KUMON have reached a point where the work is either too much or too challenging, or both. Slightly adjusting the workload or level can make a huge difference in terms of motivation and performance. It is easy for us to adjust the daily workload so that it feels comfortable and not overwhelming.

Our staff love working with our wonderful students! Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help keep KUMON positive!

**KUMON of Seattle Students Become Smarter By Training Their Brains**

Research reveals that the key to developing a stronger (and smarter) brain is to build as many pathways between brain cells as possible. These pathways allow students to retrieve information faster because the pathways provide a more direct route to the answer. For example, say you are at home and want to drive to the store. The first street goes directly to the store while the second street takes you to the other side of town and then to the store. Which route is shorter? The direct street, of course. The same idea applies to the brain. By creating more pathways, it is easier and quicker for your brain to find information.

**How does a person create these brain pathways?**

First, research shows that **repetitive learning** builds the shortest information pathways between brain cells. Second, the more repetitive learning one does, the broader and stronger those pathways become. Interestingly enough, researchers have found that performing simple math calculations and reading out loud activates more areas of the brain than anything else! This is important because more pathways are created when a greater number of areas of the brain are activated. Doing math calculations actually produces the most brain activity, thus creating the most pathways. Further research shows that speed also plays a role in pathway creation. For instance, performing math calculations quickly produced more brain activity than performing the same calculations slowly.

**How does KUMON train your child's brain?** KUMON requires students to repeat material until mastery is achieved. KUMON also requires students to complete work quickly, which produces more brain activity and creates more pathways. Thus, through repetition and speed, KUMON helps your child build stronger and broader brain pathways, which makes your child's brain stronger and smarter. Furthermore, because

KUMON students are required to correct all mistakes to 100%, the KUMON program ensures your child is creating pathways to the correct answer rather than creating pathways to the wrong answer!

KUMON study helps your child to build strong and smart brain power that will help them not only in the short term, but for the rest of their lives.

**Summer Reading Challenge Party**

Our Summer Reading Challenge ended on August 21. **Students should turn in their Book Trackers the week of 9/12-9/16.** This leaves plenty of time for students to record all of the books they have read in their Book Tracker. They don't have to write a book report or draw a masterpiece in the Tracker, but all books counted towards their reading goal must be entered completely, including the name and author of each book. Please come see us if you have any questions.

We will review all of the Book Trackers and return them at our celebration **Make-Your-Own Ice Cream Sundae Party on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 12-2 pm at our UVillage KUMON Center.**

Parents and sibs are invited to join us. We will have a raffle and several "extraordinary reading" awards to present. We'll send out reminders as we get closer to the date. Congratulations to all of our students who met their summer reading goal! We're proud of you!

**Parent Communication**

Your child's progress in our KUMON program is my highest priority. My staff and I want to help all of our students reach their full potential. I encourage parents to contact me with any questions or concerns you have about your child's progress in KUMON. The best way to communicate with me is via e-mail (**Jeannie@kumonofseattle.com**). Robyn is available during center hours to answer any questions you have about your child, the program, or logistics. We are grateful to you for your commitment to KUMON and pledge to do all we can to help your child make fast, strong progress this school year!