



K-4 Monthly Math Mews

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Frequently Asked Questions (and the Answers!)

Question: How can I help my child who uses the *Everyday Mathematics* program?

Answer: The authors of *Everyday Mathematics* believe it is very important to help parents become actively involved in their child's mathematical education, and they have worked hard to provide opportunities for this to happen. Here are just a few suggestions about how you can learn about the mathematics your child is studying in school, and how you can help reinforce their math learning at home.

-A Home Link or Study Link homework assignment is included with almost every lesson in the program. Periodically these homework assignments include a letter to parents explaining various aspects of the program. Be sure to read these letters and discuss what is going on in math class with your child. Whenever possible work with your child on their Home and Study Links. If there is something unfamiliar to you in these assignments encourage your child to "teach" you about what they are working on in class. If an assignment is confusing or difficult for you or your child, jot a note explaining your difficulties on the Home or Study Link paper and return it to your child's teacher.

-Encourage your child to teach you the math games he/she is learning in school, and play these games whenever you have an opportunity. You might even enjoy inventing some of your own math games together!

-Many *Everyday Mathematics* teachers set aside special days for math activities like Explorations, Games Days, and Projects. If possible, volunteer to help in the classroom on these days.

-Whenever you find yourself using math in your daily lives point out this fact and discuss math's usefulness in real-life situations. Encourage your child to experiment with and use everyday "math tools" like rulers, tape measures, measuring cups and spoons, clocks and calculators.

Basic Fact Competition November's Winner/December's Goal

November's winning class was Mrs. Partovich's 3rd grade class—Way to go!

December's goal: The whole grade with the most minutes will win. Everyone **MUST** participate!

Homework

Online Resources that Help

Helping your child(ren) with math homework can sometimes be a daunting task. Math is taught in ways that many adults are not familiar with because methods and strategies used to teach have evolved over time. We are now blessed with amazing resources that once were not even conceivable. Here are a few online resources that may help your child(ren) better understand the world of mathematics.

- Do a search on a math topic on YouTube to watch a video about it
- Skype a friend to ask for help
- <http://www.freemathhelp.com/> You will find extra practice problems and strategies for solving math problems at this site.
- <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/me5/html/math5.html> This website has great tutorials on a variety of math topics.
- <http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=173> Krypto is a fun math game that students can play to practice basic facts, game strategy, and logic.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Give Gifts that Encourage Mathematical Exploration

Children love special gadgets and tools, as well as games and activities that challenge their minds. Giving a gift related to math is a good way to reinforce and reward your child's accomplishments. Here are some ideas: a watch, a timer, an hour glass (egg timer), a calendar, a tape measure, a calculator, pattern blocks, books of brainteasers, 3-dimensional building kits, puzzles, maps, and a wide variety of games.