



K-4 Monthly Math Mews

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Why Play Games? Games & Mathematics

Most children love to play games. Games are wonderful tools for teaching strategy, logic, reasoning, and MATH! Children need ongoing practice to lay a solid foundation for further learning. One of the best ways to practice and reinforce basic skills is to play games. It can be as simple as taking a deck of cards and playing Multiplication War (a version of War—take 2 cards instead of one and multiply—the larger product wins the cards).

The Everyday Mathematics program has an enormous collection of math games. Some are taught and played in school; all can be played at home. If you and your child would like a copy of the Game Book, please ask your child's math teacher for a copy.

Get involved, play math related games with your child(ren). Some common commercial games that involve math, logic, and critical thinking skills are:

- Rummikub
- Uno
- Jenga
- Monopoly
- Othello
- Battleship
- Yatzee
- Blokus

Basic Fact Competition

January winners were: Ethan Grey (1st gr), Benji Schmeltz (2nd gr), Emily Weingarden (3rd gr), and Judah Karesh (4th gr). Great job!

February's goal: January's winners will be the top three students in each grade, first through fourth, who practices the most. Everyone **MUST** participate!

Frequently Asked Questions (and the Answers!)

Question: Why does *Everyday Mathematics* work?

Answer: *Everyday Mathematics* is a research-based and field-tested curriculum that focuses on developing children's understandings and skills in ways that produce life-long mathematical power.

The *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum emphasizes:

- **Use of concrete, real-life examples** that are meaningful and memorable as an introduction to key mathematical concepts.
- **Repeated exposures to mathematical concepts and skills** to develop children's ability to recall knowledge from long-term memory.
- **Frequent practice of basic computation skills** to build mastery of procedures and quick recall of facts, often through games and verbal exercises.
- **Use of multiple methods and problem-solving strategies** to foster true proficiency and accommodate different learning styles.

Taken from:

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/about/why-it-works/>

Reminder: Pi Day is Coming!

The number Pi is celebrated around the world on March 14th. This year we will have a special Pi Day celebration at Hillel. Your child will participate in age-appropriate activities during his/her math class. One activity will include a Digits of Pi Memorization Contest. The individual student from each grade will win a prize and the overall school winner will receive a very special reward. Start practicing now!