November/December, 2012

Dear Third Grade Families,

Today we begin daily math fact homework. In third grade, your child is expected to have mastered his or her times tables by the end of the school year. The general breakdown is as follows: 0X, 1X, 2X, 5X, 10X and 4X mastered by December break. 11X, and 3X mastered by end of January. February: 6X, March: 9X and 12X, April: 8X, May: 7X (Please refer to The Multiplication Schedule 2012-2013 for details on why the facts are revealed in this order).

Please make daily math fact games a fun routine in your home. Although we spend time during the school day on multiplication concepts and facts, the key to automaticity of facts is consistent daily practice at home.

Your child should now have a complete set of home playing cards for 1X, 2X and 4X stored in a small box or bag.

Every night, please spend ten minutes with your child playing multiplication fact games. This time should be relaxed and fun. Please, no drilling! These are not flashcards but game cards!

Current game options:

Go Fish!

Concentration

Over time, you will be able to determine the facts your child knows automatically and the facts he/she still needs to think about. The facts that are not automatic have yet to be stored in the “I don’t need to think about it” side of the brain. We call these “The Demons.” You can make a list of The Demons on the back of this sheet. Add more game cards into your child’s card deck of The Demon facts, and take out the facts they know automatically.

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE ON TO 5X or 10X UNTIL 0X, 1X, 2X AND 4X ARE MASTERED!!!

Thank you so much for your support. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email us at ANY TIME!!! ☺

Additional ideas for times table support:

* Buy some multiplication board games at Lakeshore Learning (online or at the store in San Jose)
* Have your child make a poster of the 0X, 1X, 2X and 4X tables. Post it on the fridge or in their room or bathroom!
* Include computer time for multiplication facts into your daily routine. There are approved sites on the class webpage.
* Use beans, pasta or pennies to visually illustrate each fact…i.e 2X6 is two groups of 6 pennies.