



The Wildcat Weekly

Winside Elementary School

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015



THANKSGIVING BREAK..... Students will dismiss at **1:30 pm** on Wednesday, November 25th. No school on Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th.

BUNDLE UP..... With the colder temperatures approaching, it is important that the students are dressed appropriately. This includes a warm coat, hat, gloves. etc. Students do go outside for recess unless the weather is uncooperative. Students must have snow boots and pants to play in the snow; otherwise, they will play on the blacktop. We also ask that students wear long pants to school at this point of the school year. Thank you!



POWERSCHOOL With PowerSchool, parents can have access to grades, announcements, attendance, etc. for 2nd through 12 grade students. This week a letter will be sent home with your children that will explain how to set up an account with PEARSON in order to keep up-to-date with your child's daily happenings. You will find the PEARSON icon on the right side of the screen on the school's website. This letter will explain how to set up an account or add your elementary children to your existing account. You can even download it to your phone. Once you get this letter and have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenni Topp at 286-4466.



Tips for Parents: Math

www.thelearningcommunity.us

Math is No Mystery

Is that 16oz. can of tomatoes a better bargain than the 12oz. can? You make dozens of calculations in your daily life, from balancing a checkbook to figuring how long it will take to drive to a crosstown soccer game. That's math at work. As a parent, you can help your child be a whiz at math, even if it wasn't your best subject. Here's how:

Be positive about math. Express confidence in your child's ability to do math. Don't stress either your own fear of math or how difficult math is or how much you admire anyone who can do math. Remember, everyone can and does use math all the time.

Show you kids math at work in their world. Get your kids used to math by thinking out loud when making calculations. Then, let your children work out some real-life puzzles themselves. For example:

- Let them measure when you bake.
- Ask them to figure out how long of a hose you need to reach from the faucet on the side of the house to the garden.
- Let your child figure out how many miles you'll be driving on your next trip by using the information on a map.
- Sort silverware by knives, forks, and spoons. Sort cards by suit or numbers.

Make math a game. Math games are fun and inexpensive. They are a wonderful way to get your kids to enjoy working with numbers, as well as improve their number skills. Here are a few suggestions:

- Many games that we take for granted are excellent math lessons. "Go Fish" teaches counting and grouping in sets. Games that use play money teach how to make change. Board games that use dice teach addition and counting. Backgammon teaches addition, subtraction, and strategy.
- Beans, stones, or marbles can be used to play number games. Let your child develop his or her own games by sorting beans into different sizes or types, setting up the rules for a counting game, or using different types of pasta to make a picture.
- Give your children a geometry lesson by letting them create a collage of circles, squares, and triangles. Challenge them to come up with as many different shapes as they can using only triangles.
- Play store with the items in your cupboard.
- A pan of water and some jars or cups of different sizes will amuse a child for hours while teaching capacity and volume.

Encourage creative problem-solving. Problem-solving is the basis of good mathematical thinking, and the problems don't have to involve numbers.

- "How many different ways are there to walk to school?"
- "What's another way to arrange the furniture in this room?"
- "How many different ways can I measure flour to get half a cup?"

Try to come up with more than one solution for everyday problems.

Choose gifts that develop problem-solving skills. Blocks, building sets, geometric tile sets, puzzles, board games, weather stations, maps, puzzle books, calculators, strategy games, scales, and origami are just a few of the gifts that will give your child pleasure and knowledge at the same time.

Talk to teachers. Teachers have materials that you can copy and ideas that you can use at home. They also have access to books, kits, and professional organizations that can enlarge both your own at-home math lessons and the math program at your school.