

KUMON NEWSLETTER



Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.
- Native American Saying.


Kumon of Gilbert
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February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 19: Presidents' Day—No Class.

February 21: New Parent Orientation @ 6 to 8 pm

March 3: Kumon Family Appreciation Day 1 to 3 pm

March 12 through 16—Spring Break



4th Annual East Valley Kumon Family Appreciation Day

We continue with the tradition of showing our appreciation to our Kumon families with our 4th Annual East Valley Kumon Family Appreciation Day.

As in the past, we invite everyone to attend the event which highlights the presentation of awards to students who have reached a milestone in the Kumon program.

This year, we will have activities for all ages including; face painting, gooey science, clowns, balloon art, bead activities, awards, fun and games. We will be providing free refreshments as well.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 3 at the Kiwanis Park. More information will be sent home soon.

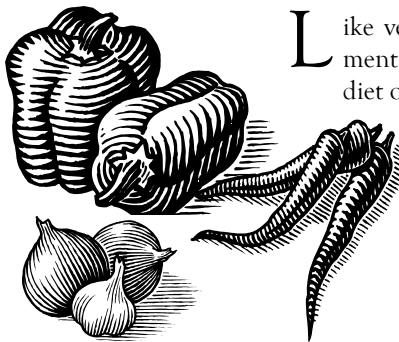


Tanner B. (5)
Mark M. (7)
Wasi R. (7)
Gabriel R. (7)
Shadya H. (8)

Briggs C. (8)
Christine W. (9)
Jasmine H. (10)
Albert B. (10)
Daniel B. (11)
Jennifer L. (12)
Lauren R. (12)
Quenton W. (12)
Megan C. (14)
Xavier C. (14)
Leiasha G. (15)
Jose Luis C. (16)
(age)



THE VALUE OF HOMEWORK



Like vegetables, homework is good for all, yet few like it. Homework can boost academic achievement - a delightful result. Yet many find homework distasteful. Let us look at the many benefits a diet of homework provides and ways to make it more palatable.

Homework can teach important values such as responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time-management. A child learns responsibility by assuming ownership for his/her mistakes as well as successes. Homework teaches perseverance when a child is encouraged to continue rather than quit. Students learn time-management skills by balancing their activities and homework commitments without sacrificing quality. Children learn self-discipline by doing their homework on a daily basis. These values contribute to a child's self-esteem and positive attitude toward learning.

These lessons are best learned from homework that parallels classroom instruction and curriculum. It works best when students understand exactly what they are expected to do, and they learn best when the assignment suits their individual needs. That means that the directions need to be clear and the homework should allow children to practice material previously introduced in the classroom. For maximum learning, feedback should be immediate. All of these benefits from homework can be derived from Kumon worksheets as well as school homework.

However, homework also can lead to emotional tugs of war between parents and children. As parents, we want to be involved in our children's education, but sometimes our zeal or their demand leads to our over-involvement. An involved parent assigns responsibility for the homework to the child, while the over-involved parent assumes responsibility for the child's homework. The involved parent makes him- or herself available to clarify directions or give examples. The over involved parent hovers over the child ready to give help whether or not the child needs it. When parents are over-involved, children may get their homework done, but never learn those important hidden lessons. It is a missed opportunity.

Educational psychologists who have studied homework issues offer these suggestions. Rewarding a child for doing homework produces far more positive results than punishing a child for not doing it. Work with your child to design a homework plan that best fits his/her needs. For example, a child with learning disabilities profits most from the gift of time. Some children require frequent breaks. Some need to know when to start, others need to know when to finish. Examine the specific homework problem your child may be having. Does he know what the assignment is? Does she know how to organize it? Does he understand the directions?

Where and when your child does his/her homework is also important. Most students produce their best results when they work at a "homework corner" free of noise, T.V., clutter. It is recommended that a special time be set aside for homework. Most parents and Instructors find that Kumon is best done before all other homework.

When tackling homework issues, enlist your child's help. For example, when offering motivational rewards, let your child help build a list of rewards and privileges that would be most meaningful to him/her. If your child has difficulty with organization, have your child develop a list of "homework jobs" by writing down assignment due dates on a homework board or calendar.



Kumon's self-paced program, with its immediate feedback, offers parents a wonderful opportunity to provide their child with good academic skills, as well as the values of responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. The result will be a child with strong academic skills and a positive self-esteem. Who could ask for anything more?!

Author: Dr. Andrea Pastorok, Ph D. is an Educational Psychologist and formerly a Kumon consultant.

