

Instructor:  
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**Center Hours**  
Mon: 3:30 - 7:00 pm  
Thurs: 3:30 - 7:00 pm

[www.KumonWorks.com](http://www.KumonWorks.com)

## December 2007

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Parents, please let us know of any significant achievements made by your child outside of the Kumon classroom. Please communicate the info to the instructor or via email at:

[KatherineJones@iKumon.com](mailto:KatherineJones@iKumon.com)

## KUMON FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Isn't it amazing how quickly time passes? The year is quickly drawing to a close. Perhaps there was a project you meant to complete this year, but never quite got around to it. If so, it was probably because you were so busy with other, more pressing responsibilities. As we look back over the year, it is important to acknowledge our achievements while also coming to terms with our shortcomings. We should be proud of ourselves for this year's accomplishments; likewise, we must also learn from our mistakes. Through this honest self-reflection, we can conclude the year on a positive note and start the New Year optimistically. Parents can help their children achieve this same healthy year-end sense of completion. This can be done with your child by looking back on the child's Kumon year together.

A year is 365 days. Each of these 365 days is an opportunity to learn something new and do something constructive. If your family was involved with Kumon for most of the year, think back to when your child first began his or her Kumon study. Look how far your child has progressed this year! If you are relatively new to Kumon (less than six months since enrollment), you can look forward to continued improvements in the not-too-distant future. Studying Kumon for 20 to 30 minutes a day over a year's time is the equivalent of just five to seven days in a year. It doesn't seem like a lot when compared to a whole year, but the difference this daily study makes in a child's life is profound. It takes time to realize the true benefits of Kumon study. Anything truly worthwhile takes time to achieve. Perhaps by the time you can stack your child's completed Kumon worksheets into a pile that is taller than the child, you will realize the most dramatic effects of Kumon. In the Kumon Method, children learn more than just math concepts they learn perseverance.

Thinking ahead to the New Year, there are many simple but effective ways in which you, as a parent, can improve your child's results with the Kumon program. Regular attendance, completion of daily homework assignments, consistency with the time of day homework is done and enthusiastically demonstrated parental interest are just a few of the ways to improve the effectiveness of Kumon in your child's life. Keeping in close consultation with your child's Kumon Instructor is also important for maximum benefits. Setting clear, attainable goals additionally helps to have a great impact on the child's motivation to continue studying during the upcoming year. We here at Kumon wish your family a very happy holiday season and look forward to working with you to make the most of the new year.

*Happy Holidays to Our Wonderful Kumon Families!*



## Give a Warm Welcome to Our New Students!

- Allen Nguyen (3rd grade)
- Amita Bacchu (Kindergartner)
- Andrew Nguyen (1st grade)
- Anirved Pogula (7th grade)
- Brandon Thai (2nd grade)
- Cuong Tran (4th grade)
- Jessica Lee (7th grade)
- Judy Nguyen (4th grade)
- Kailey Lam (Pre-K)
- Kelli Huynh (4th grade)
- Kevin Jones (10th grade)
- Khiem Lam (7th grade)
- Kristina Nguyen (3rd grade)
- Lan Nguyen (2nd grade)
- Mai Jones (5th grade)
- Matthew Dean (1st grade)
- Melissa Delos Reyes (3rd grade)
- Melrose Delos Reyes (Kindergartner)
- Michelle Delos Reyes (2nd grade)
- Michelle Dean (1st grade)
- Mimi Than (9th grade)
- Minh Nguyen (4th grade)
- Praneeth Rekapalli (3rd grade)
- Ryan Phan (Pre-K)
- Saidivya Mula (Pre-K)
- Srija Padala (Pre-K)
- Sruti Jonnalagada (Pre-K)
- Susie Than (7th grade)
- Tasnia Kabir (5th grade)
- Valerie Thai (4th grade)



## Achievements

**Congratulations to the following students for a job well done:**

### Reading Program Advanced Student Honor Roll (ASHR)

<b>Brandon Thai (2nd grade)</b>	<b>Level AII</b>
<b>Mai Jones (5th grade)</b>	<b>Level EI</b>

### Math Program Advanced Student Honor Roll (ASHR)

<b>Saidivya Mula (Pre-K)</b>	<b>Level 4A</b>
<b>Praneeth Rekapalli</b>	<b>Level C</b>
<b>Minh Nguyen (4th grade)</b>	<b>Level D</b>

### Math Program 2 Years Advanced Level

<b>Susie Than (7th grade)</b>	<b>Level H</b>
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## Center Holiday Closing:

**Monday December 24, 2007**  
**Monday December 31, 2007**

**Please make sure to let Kathy know if your child will be on vacation so she can give your child homework assignments over break.**



## KUMON STAFF:

- Kathy Jones– Center Director & Instructor
- Chi Jones– Chief Assistant & Web Master
- Rowan Rivera– Jr. Kumon Assistant
- Jessica Shin– Jr. Kumon Assistant
- Kevin Jones– Data Entry & Grader
- Kathleen Nguyen– Grader
- Thomas Nguyen– Grader
- Mimi Than– Grader
- Mai Jones– Kumon Shop Assistant

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## Good Readers Make Good Writers

November/December 2003 Straight Talk Kumon



**Has the skill of writing become a lost art? Have e-mails and text messages, which often lack capitalization, punctuation, correct spelling and grammar for the sake of brevity, undermined Standard Written English? Yes!**

Once the norm, Standard Written English was used by school children, college students, and adults to write essays, term papers, thank-you notes, and letters or memos to friends and co-workers. Somewhere over the past few decades, however, whether due to technology, the drop in the amount of time children spend reading books, the declining importance of writing (the second of the 3R's) in the school curriculum, or all of the above, students' ability to write in Standard Written English has deteriorated. The alarming awareness that even the best students have poor writing skills has made educators take a hard look at the connection between good readers and good writers, school curriculum, graduation requirements, and tests for college admission. Reading comprehension and writing are reciprocal processes: the better a student's comprehension, the more books he tends to read; the more reading a child does, the more exposure she will have to the elements of good writing. **The tools of a good writer will become second nature to a student who reads widely and frequently;** thus, when this successful reader writes, he will naturally use the good writing skills which he acquired as a reader. Additionally, it is true that good writing improves reading comprehension. Why? It is because of a chain of fortuitous events, beginning with the fact that better writers tend to read more. In early elementary school, children who do writing activities along with their learning-to-read program repeatedly demonstrate significant gains in reading achievement, notably in comprehension and vocabulary building. Writing allows students to link their background knowledge to the book that they are reading; therefore, it brings their prior knowledge as well as their personal experiences to the writing process, enabling them to better comprehend what they read. To ameliorate the problem of poor writing skills, more and more school districts/boards are placing a strong emphasis on Standard Written English, accomplishing this in the following ways:

- requiring a school's curriculum to reinstate writing skills into the reading program,
- stressing the importance of reading books daily,
- instituting a written essay test at various grade levels, and
- including, as a graduation requirement to receive a regular high school diploma, the passing of a written essay.

While parents and teachers are on high alert to see whether or not children improve their writing skills, pass a written essay test to graduate from high school or to be able to be accepted at the college or university of their choice, **Kumon parents can breathe a sigh of relief because the Kumon Reading worksheets include the mechanics of writing - grammar, syntax, punctuation, capitalization - as well as writing concepts such as organization, purpose and supporting details. And we must all keep in mind one important point: if students want to excel in school, they also need to excel in Kumon.** This translates into being above grade level in Kumon to be above average in school. For example, if a 3rd grader is in level CI Reading, he is doing grade level work in Kumon, and this is not a guarantee that he will be excelling in school or on standardized tests. Hats off to proactive Kumon parents who have their children enrolled in Kumon's Reading Program long term. They know, as we at Kumon know, that good readers make good writers!

**Dear Mom & Dad,  
Please stop writing tuition checks.**



Here's one writing assignment parents no longer have to complete. Our automated tuition program lets you automatically deduct tuition payments from your checking or savings account. It is convenient, reliable and you never have to worry about being late with your payments or having your checks get lost or stolen. Please ask Chi or Kathy about the EFT forms.

*It's just plain smart.*

**CARELESS MISTAKES**



Students sometimes say, "If I had had more time, I would not have made that careless mistake." Experience, has shown, however, that given more time, that student would probably have made the same error again. What they really need is not more time but a chance to repeat. Making careless errors is a sign that they have not yet **mastered** their work and should repeat.

Parents sometimes feel that Kumon's SCT (Standard Completion Time) pressures a child into hurrying and thus errors are made. The truth, however, is that if students truly master their work, they will not need to worry about time – it will come naturally.

Parents and Kumon Instructors must work together to bring students to the point of mastery. After all, **careless mistakes are still mistakes** and if we rid students of them now, it will be they who benefit in the long run.

**Parental Involvement**

Parental involvement is crucial to the success of the program.

Help your child establish good study habits by supporting and enforcing a daily "Kumon time"

Get involved and help motivate your child by participating in home grading of his or her Kumon Worksheets

Parents, make sure the date and time are recorded on homework sheets, and they are graded before center visits.

Work in close partnership with your Kumon Instructor to monitor and evaluate your child's progress

**Praise and encourage your child regularly!**



**Math Puzzle**

				÷	3	=	7			
			0							
		2	x			=	8			
			0							1
		+	5	=		7	-	3		5
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		4		÷					2	3
x					3				=	
1	6	÷	8	=					7	8
=		8			4					-
2		=				x	4	=	3	6
		5								

**Brain Teasers**

The City Zoo has a special exhibit on spiders and snakes. A visitor decided to count all the legs and all the heads of the many strange animals on exhibit. She found that there were 24 heads and 64 legs. She noticed that all the spiders have 8 legs each, the snakes have no legs, and, of course, snakes and spiders all have one head each.

*How many spiders and how many snakes are there in the exhibit ?*

