

Dear Parents,

Middle school libraries are hosting evening meetings for fifth grade parents entitled "Your Child @ the Middle School Library" to better acquaint parents of next year's sixth graders with the middle school library and the types of resources and services offered. There will be a short presentation and a question and answer session to follow. Parents who plan to attend should try to attend the meeting at their designated middle school campus, but are welcome to choose a session at a different campus if need be. The dates/times are as follows:

- Canyon Vista MS - Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m.
- Cedar Valley MS – Monday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Chisholm Trail MS - Thursday, May 7 at 6 p.m.
- Deerpark MS - Wednesday, May 20 6 p.m.
- C. D. Fulkes MS - Thursday, May 28 at 6 p.m.
- Grisham MS - Tuesday, May 26 6:30 p.m.
- Hopewell MS - Monday, June 1 at 6 p.m.
- Ridgeview MS - Tuesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.
- Walsh MS - Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m.

At this time of the year, I try to write a newsletter article that will help you in keeping your students successful academically during the summer. In the past, I have talked about the summer reading program at the public libraries as well as ideas on field trips to take with your kids, e.g. the Bob Bullock Museum, the Zilker Botanical Gardens, etc. However, in this issue, I would like to address how you can help your child struggle less with math.

Number Sense

- *Get your child used to thinking about numbers and what they mean. Have him count objects regularly. How many computers are in the library? How many books are in his/her room?*
- *Give directions involving numbers. e.g. Please put three plates on the table. Take four steps to get into bed.*
- *Ask your child to count to 10 by finding numbers around the house. e.g. "1" on a clock, "2" on a remote control, "3" on a board game spinner, and so on.*

Skip Counting

- *Learning to skip count will help your child count faster and with more confidence.*
- *While walking up the block, have him/her read the house numbers. Point out how they increase by 2 or 4.*
- *Ask your child to number 20 craft sticks (1-20) and lay them down side by side. If he removes every other one and says the numbers that remain, he will have counted by 2's.*
- *Encourage your child to count to 50 while bouncing a ball. The child can swing his/her leg over the ball on every 5th number, etc. to get the rhythm of counting by 5's.*

Upcoming Important Dates

May 1	Movie Night
May 8	Early Release Day

May 11	Conference Week Begins
May 12 & 14	Early Release Days
May 15	Field Day and Cook Out
May 18	Volunteer Appreciation Day
May 19	TAKS Math retest gr. 5
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday
May 29	K and 1 st grade awards
June 1	2 nd and 3 rd grade awards
June 2	4 th and 5 th grade awards
June 3	Last day of school

*Sincerely,
Sharon Wilkes*

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