

## Ms. Vermeulen's Newsletter

### Common Core

"Common Core, the new way of thinking!" This is something that should be sounding pretty familiar to you by now! Our new math curriculum has been decided and fully implemented within the last couple months. It transitions well into the middle school curriculum (Math Connections), and aligns with Michigan's new Common Core Standards.

Many parents are intimidated by this new way of thinking. Don't be! Students are now being shown multiple ways to solve a problem. This helps teachers reach ALL types of learners. Students find the best way that works for them, and are encouraged to use that method.

Remember, my weebly has tutorial videos and other resources to help your child. The link is below under "What you can do at home." Comment on the forum and let me know what you would like to see added!

### What's New?

Some parents have been asking how they can help their child stay on track during the summer weeks. I will be providing more information on the weebly, as June quickly approaches, but here are a few ideas for you to think about.

*-Go with your child to the book store, and pick up a book prepping for fourth grade!* There are lots of resources out there, I will do my research and let you know which books can best prepare your students.

*-Visit my Fourth Grade Homework Help Section* Adding/Subtracting/Place Value are the first concepts covered in fourth grade

*-Interested in a tutor?* I will provide information on resources for possible free/low cost tutoring for the summer months!

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [avermeulen@lakeorion.k12.mi.us](mailto:avermeulen@lakeorion.k12.mi.us) ☺*

### Highlights of the Month

In Ms. Vermeulen's math classroom, third graders have finished up adding and subtracting and are moving into equations and story problems.

The best way to help your child through a story problem is not to give them the operation, or the answer. I encourage you to help your child through the process. Ask him/her questions, such as, "What information do we know?" "What information do we want to know?" "What clues or pictures could help us?" This helps your child become independent in their thinking skills.

Check out the "Steps to Solve Story Problems," under the resources section in Third Grade Homework Help.

### What you can do at home

- ❖ **Flash cards!** *Multiplication and division flash cards are a great way to help students master their facts. Ask me for a link to free flash cards!*
- ❖ **Review at home** *Even when your child doesn't have homework, do a few practice problems together to see what he/she has been learning!*
- ❖ **Visit my weebly at** <http://avermeulen.weebly.com/> *This has lots of tools and resources to help you and your child!*

