

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! The best way to help your child is to have them dig deep and think harder! Students are pushed to try different ways, and not to give up. Check out the "tips for solving story problems," resource if this is a struggle for your child on the weebly.

Mrs. Okonowski and I have been SO PROUD of the fifth graders hard work lately. The connections they make, and the applications they provide are showing us their deep understanding of mathematics! Ask your student to explain their thinking after solving a story problem and be amazed by what they know!

What's New?

Homework - this is nothing new to your child! I have been giving SHORT homework assignments (15 minutes max) once a week, all year long! Spring-fever has hit the students, and they need a reminder to keep working hard.

Many students have been suddenly forgetting to do their LSS Math Homework. This homework is important because it shows me if they need more practice, or if they have mastered the concept.

Please remind your child the importance of this short homework, and ask them about what they did in small group this week. ☺

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at avermeulen@lakeorion.k12.mi.us

Highlights of the Month

In Ms. Vermeulen's math classroom, fifth graders have been busy with algebra and story problems.

Students have been manipulating equations, and solving for variables the last few weeks! I know it is surprising to see algebra in 5th grade, but fifth graders have been doing great! They understand inverse operations (add/subtract, multiply/divide), and other algebra concepts such as an unknown variable.

They have also been working on multi-step problems. They are given real-world situations and are able to use multi-step equations to find a reasonable answer. We are so excited to see how well students do on their "group assessment," this week in class. Students will work TOGETHER to show us all they have learned!

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 their homework** *Students in 5th grade are often asked to finish their math assignments at home. I have seen a lot of assignments in which students have not tried their personal best.*
- ❖ **Visit my weebly at** <http://avermeulen.weebly.com/>
This has lots of tools and resources to help you and your child!

