

Tiger Tales

Taylorsville Elementary Newsletter

February 2009

<http://www.graniteschools.org/el/taylorsville/>

Message from the Principal. . .

Dear Parents and Students,

I am excited to tell you about a beneficial program Taylorsville Elementary School have implemented to help students learn and master math facts. It is called Rocket Math or Mastering Math Facts. Mastering Math Facts is a structured program for sequential practice of math facts. Successful practice on math facts requires that students practice and learn enough facts at a time so that they can simply remember or memorize the answers. Facts in Mastering Math Fact are introduced in set of two and their reverse. Quicker learners are able to move on to other operations, while slower learners work at their own pace.

Most students who fail to learn math facts have had them introduced too quickly. When facts are introduced too quickly, students begin to confuse new facts with previously introduced material. In Mastering Math Facts program "more difficult" facts are introduced about midway during the sequence so that students can get more practice with these facts.

Automaticity is the third stage of learning and follows accuracy which means we can do things correctly if we take time and are fluent. If we keep practicing, we develop automaticity which is when we can do something quickly without errors and without much conscious attention.

How can you help at home? You can help at home by using add, subtract, multiply and division flash cards. It is recommended that you use 10 facts your child has mastered, along with 2-4 new facts. Practice saying the whole problem without hesitation. When an error or hesitation is made, give the correct answer immediately. Have your child repeat the problem and answer. Put the card back three spaces. Continue with the deck until they practice three times without

hesitation. Use 2-4 new cards, setting aside the oldest 2-4 cards to be placed in review stack. Practice the review stack every 4-5 days.

Your students are doing an amazing job with the facts. The program is working, and students are motivated to learn. Please ask them to tell you more about Rocket Math.

Thank you for you support!

Jon Adams, Principal
Ph: 646-5038

Message from the PTA President. . .

Teachers and students,

I can't believe the school year is half over!!! We have a lot going on the next few months. First up is our PTA fundraiser. We will be kicking it off on March 9th and it will run thru March 20th. We are selling carnival favorites (pretzels, churro's, and funnel cakes) \$1 candy bars and jerky, and chocolate Easter treats. We are celebrating SPIRIT week March 2-5. We have a lot of fun stuff planned so watch for a flyer to come home soon with details. SEP's will be March 17 & 18th and we will be having another book fair. We hope to have another Family movie night soon so if you haven't joined the PTA it isn't too late.

We are getting ready to elect our PTA board for next year. This is a great way to become involved in your children's school and make a difference. There are so many ways to be involved and most do not take up as much time as you think and there is no experience needed. It is very rewarding and your children love it. Please call or e-mail me and I can give you more information or answer any questions.

The contest for Plastic bags recycling ends in March so if you have bags to bring in do so ASAP!! We have earned \$1000 and hopefully will have our SNOW CONE MACHINE for field day!!! We're almost there, so keep collecting your bags and box tops/soup labels!!!!

Our PTA meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. The next one will be March 5th at 4:15pm in Mr. Watt's room.

Everyone is invited. If you have any ideas and/or suggestions, we'd love to see you there. Thanks to all our volunteers! Suggestions or ideas please call me

Wendy Koehler
963-1834
wendyswrl@aol.com

Star Students, Teachers, and Volunteers

Watch for February's winners in next month's newsletter. We will be recognizing students who are making improvement academically or behaviorally with the "High Five" award. Go Tigers!!

Community Council Elections will take place during SEP Conferences on March 17 and 18. Cast your ballot at the office.

Looking Ahead...

Important Items for February and March:

Feb. 5 P.T.A. Meeting @ 4:00pm
Feb. 12 School Science Fair
Feb. 12 School Community Council @ 4:00pm
Feb. 16 President's Day NO SCHOOL
March 5 End of Second Term
March 5 Short Day Schedule
March 6 Student Recess Day
March 9 – 20 PTA Fundraiser
March 17 SEP Conferences 4-7 pm
March 18 SEP Conferences 4-7 pm
March 17/18 Community Council Elections
March 19 School Community Council @ 4:00pm
March 23 Spring Pictures
March 26 Short Day Schedule
March 27 NO SCHOOL Compensatory Day

Safety First...

There has been concern about parents entering the playground area during lunch recess and approaching their students. Please do not do this without checking into the office and obtaining a **VISITOR'S PASS first**. The duty's job is to keep our kids safe on the playground. The duty doesn't know that

you are an appropriate visitor unless you have obtained a visitor's pass from the office. This is true of the **hallway, playground, and the cafeteria**. We want to keep all students and staff members safe. Please remember to have photo ID ready when checking out your student.

Traffic...

Thank you for using the Drop Zone in front of the school instead of the parking lot when bringing your students to school. A BIG THANK YOU to Mr. Watts for directing traffic at the end of the day. To those who use the parking lot: Please exit the lot by turning right. Traffic flows more smoothly and quickly if we turn right. This makes it possible for everyone to leave safely and in a timely manner. We don't want anyone to get hurt, so please be courteous, and cautious to the adults and students who are directing traffic. Please set a proper example for our students and use the crosswalks. THANKS!

Business Partners

McDonald's provides Happy Meals as awards for students, meal cards for teachers, and also provides meals for our teachers during SEP Conferences. **EVERYBODY** Loves McDonald's!
Little Caesar's Pizza - provides coupons
University of Phoenix - provides donuts for Parents and Pastries
Mountain America Credit Union – provides the refreshments for the Art Start Family Festival in May.

If you work for a business that might be willing to help our school by copying our newsletter, please talk to Mr. Adams, or Wendy Koehler. Thanks.

School Community Council: We will hold meetings on the following dates: 9/10, 4:00, 9/11, 4:00, 9/23, 4:00, 10/1, 9:30, 10/7, 4:00 (if needed), 10/14, 8:00 a.m., 2/12, 4:00, 3/11-12, elections, 3/19, 4:00, 4/16, 4:00. You may view the minutes from the meetings under the Community Council Link on our school website.

NEW - TIGER TUNES CHOIR

Every Wednesday from 4:00 to 4:30 (in the gym) for 4th, 5th and 6th Grade students who want to participate.

"People are happy because they sing!"