September

Dear Parents,

The day is finally here! The children have been introduced to multiplication. Our classroom activities will focus on learning about the conceptual foundation for multiplication. Your children will experience a wide variety of activities that show them that multiplication is a part of our everyday lives.

This year, as per the new Common Core standards, students in third grade are expected to be fluent (identifying a multiplication answer within 3 seconds) for all multiplication facts up to the 9 times tables. Knowing their facts with automaticity is a major component of success in math for these students. I would like to enlist your help at home in this area. I would like your child to practice 5 minutes a day at home their facts for the week. He/she will be bringing home a Practice Log. This log is for your child to remember to practice each night. It does not need to come back to school. Attached are some practice facts as well. The children may use those worksheets if they would like to practice.

Every Friday the students will take their multiplication quiz. It has 50 questions on the multiplication facts they are up to and the students will be given 3 minutes to complete it. They will be given one point for each problem they correctly answer (up to 100 points). A score of 95 is sufficient to move on to the next level. Every three levels they will be given a mixed review of all of the multiplication facts that they have learned from the beginning.

Each child will start at x0 & x1 (they are taught together). As they pass the levels they will advance to the next consecutive times table (in this order: x2, x3, x4, x5, x6, x7, x8, x9).



Thank you for your cooperation,

Mrs. Volk

Check out the back of this letter & the attached page

for resources and tips

In my class we have some chants or songs for the children to use to memorize the facts. See below for the breakdown. (I’ve put together a PowerPoint on my website that you can download for practice with the chants and songs.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Multiply by 2, 5, 10 = just count by 2s, 5s, & 10s | x 3 = Chant  3, 6, 9  12, 15, 18  21, 24, 27 30  33  36 | x 4 = Row, Row, Row Your Boat  4, 8, 12, 16  20, 24  28, 32  36  40 (44, 48) |
| x 6 = 10 Little Indians  6, 12, 18 24  30, 36, 42  48, 54  60, 66  and there’s 72 Whoo Hoo! | x 7 = Twinkle, Twinkle  7, 14, 21,  28, 35  42 and 49  56, 63  70 and 77  then there’s 84 | X 8 = Jingle Bells  8, 16, 24  32  40, 48  56  64, 72  80, 88  and don’t forget about 96! |
| X 9 = Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer  9, 18, 27 36, 45 54 and 63, 72 and 81.  After that then there’s 90, followed by 99.  Last is the number 108, I know my 9s just fine! | | |

Another trick: When you multiply by nine the children can use their fingers. Here’s how:

1. Put both hands out in front of you. The number that nine is being multiplied by is what you look at. So if it is 9 x 4 you use the 4.
2. Starting at your left pinkie, count four fingers and put your fourth finger down. (In this problem it would be your index finger.)
3. The amount of fingers on your hand that are up before the finger that you put down goes in the tens place. In this case it would be a three (your pinkie, ring finger, and middle finger are all up = 3).
4. The amount of fingers that are up after the finger you put down (in this case your whole right hand and your left thumb = 6) is the number that you would put in the ones place. In this case it would be a six.
5. Read your number = 9 x 4 = 36

How to Help:

1. Use flash cards for the facts at home. (Dollar Store, index cards, etc.)

2. Quiz your child for at least 5 minutes each night.

3. Create index cards to match counting by a set of numbers (example: 3s). Place them on a flat surface facing up in order. Have your child practice reading them several times in order. Then have them flip the first card over so they can’t see it and repeat reading all of the cards starting with #1-which will be done by memory). Then repeat with the second card. The goal is to be able to flip over all of the cards so the kids are able to count fluently by that number by memory.

4. Help your child study their facts a MINIMUM of 5 minutes a day.

The number one resource for building fluency besides flash cards is:

<http://www.multiplication.com/games>

This site has many games that allow you or your child to choose the specific facts they are practicing. Some are just general practice though (Fish Shop, Cone Crazy, Grand Prix, etc.) so it is best to emphasize that they play games that allow them to specifically choose the multiplication skill they need to practice so they don’t waste their practice time.

You can also use: www.IXL.com (It is great for practice, but is not as good for fluency.)

To print practice sheets go to: [www.math-aids.com](http://www.math-aids.com), [www.math-drills.com](http://www.math-drills.com)

I have additional paper resources for practice if you need them. There are also some other math links on my website.

Your partner in your child’s education,

Mrs. Volk