

The Eagle's Tale

Newsletter of Oakridge School

October 2011

Using Math in Daily Life

We use math every day in many ways, from figuring out sales taxes and tips to computing gas mileage and batting averages. But to children, it sometime seems as if the only time math matters is for homework and tests. At school, we try to help them see the practical uses of math and you can reinforce this at home.

Even if math wasn't your best subject in school, look for opportunities to point out how useful it can be. Tell your children how you use math at home and at work. Explain to them that math is important not only in the highly technological world we live in, but in creative fields like music and art.

While everyone should have a good foundation in math basics like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, math also involves solving word problems, reasoning, seeing patterns, estimating, and measuring. Here are some ways you can help your children learn these skills:

- **Emphasize math concepts.** When cutting up a pizza, refer to the portions in terms of eighths, quarters, and halves. Talk about time in terms kids understand, like "It's as long as TV show—around 30 minutes." Indicate relationships by using terms like "more than," "less than," "longer than," "less than," "above," and "below."

- **Math games.** Practicing math with flash cards is fine, but it's more fun to play games that use simple math, like cards, dominoes, dice, chess, and checkers. Have older children poll family members about their favorite foods or activities and create charts or graphs to show the results.

- **Money and math.** An excellent way to get children interested in math concepts is to involve real money. Younger children love to identify and count coins. Give older children a weekly allowance and see how soon they learn how to budget. Let them watch you balance your checkbook and encourage them to keep a similar record of their own spending. Take out a sub-

scription to *Zillions: Consumer Reports for Kids*, a children's magazine that tells kids how to earn money, manage an allowance, and compare products and prices.

- **Shopping by the numbers.** Grocery shopping presents many ways to use math. Let children cut out discount coupons, and subtract each coupon's value from the item's selling price in the store. They can also weigh produce, count shopping aisles, and even use a calculator to keep a running total of the grocery bill.

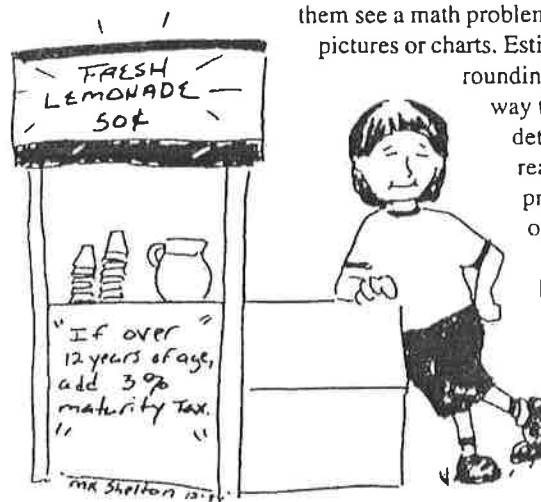
- **Helping with homework.** Instead of simply pointing out wrong answers, suggest that your children check their answers using methods they were taught in school, or have them describe the steps they used to get their answers. Often, re-reading the directions will help them see a math problem more clearly, as will drawing pictures or charts. Estimating, which usually involves

rounding off numbers, is an excellent way to simplify problems and determine if the answers are reasonable. Remember that some problems may have more than one correct answer.

- **Math and reading.** You have probably shared counting books with your children, but why not use other books to introduce math ideas? For example, if you're reading *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, you might ask, "If each bear decides to have

two bowls of porridge instead of one, how many bowls will be on the table?" Or, "If all the bears took their shoes off, how many shoes would there be?"

- **Calculators and computers.** Most experts agree that using calculators won't make children overly dependent on them. On the contrary, children often become more excited about math when introduced to inexpensive calculators. Many enjoy practicing basic math by entering numbers and anticipating what the answers will be. If you have a computer, there are a number of popular math games that children can play.



Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



Intermediate Girls Volleyball

Our season is under way! Our girls had a great start with a win over Grapeview School 2 games straight. Keep up the fine work girls! Congratulations to the following girls who have earned a spot on this year's team and are working hard to improve their skills and represent Oakridge:

Clare M.	Sarah M.
Gillian D.	Nicole M.
Gina A.	Taylor P.
Olivia .	Olivia P.
Shaila J.	Alison R.
Chelsea M.	Nicole U.
Sarah K. - Manager	

Coaches: Mme Lelievre-Rienas
Mme Vaillancourt
Mr. White

Intermediate Boys Volleyball

Mr. Beaman and Mr. Munderich would like to congratulate the following students on earning a position on the Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team:

Jordan P.	Hunter O.
Ravi D.	Jaden B.
Harrison J.	Charlie D.
Cruise I.	Gerry R.
Jack A.	Kevin N.
Darren A.	Chase O.

A sincere thanks to all who had the courage to try out. It's always a tough decision to choose twelve players from such a large field of talented prospects.

The Team is now busy preparing to face the challenge of playing in a very competitive league. We have a long road ahead of us, but we look forward to the opportunity to develop our skills and achieve to our potential.

Hallowe'en Food Drive for Community Care

The Oakridge Staff, with the support of the School Council, is holding their 6th annual Hallowe'en Food Drive Challenge in support of Community Care from Monday, October 24th until Friday, October 28.

Oakridge staff and families have traditionally been great supporters of Community Care and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our goal is 100% participation in each class! To encourage and motivate participation there is a friendly competition between classes. The class with the "heaviest" amount of food will enjoy a pizza party for these outstanding results, courtesy of Oakridge School Council!

School Council Conference

All parents are welcome to attend the annual conference "21st Century Learners: Where Parents Fit in" on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at Eden Secondary School in St. Catharines. The event will begin at 4:00pm. Come out, enjoy the vendors, a light meal, and some workshops aimed at learning how other Councils have been able to contribute to their school's successes. Babysitting is available. If interested in attending, please contact the office to register.

Lost and Found

During the school year, a tremendous amount of student clothing and other belongings are left at school. The clothing is collected and placed just outside our front foyer, in the hall. Please encourage your child to check the lost and found regularly and take items that belong to them, home. Due to the large volume of clothing collected, we are not able to store these items for a long period of time. At the end of each term, (ie. Christmas, March Break, end of school year) these items will be donated to charity if they are not claimed.

Youth Connection Nurse

The youth connection nurse assigned to our school is Viviane LeBrasseur. She will be promoting optimal health among our students and assisting us to develop a healthy school environment. Her role is to influence Niagara's children and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices. Our nurse can be reached at:
The Niagara Region Public Health Department
1-888-505-6074 ext. 7369
Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

EQAO Results 2010-2011

Achieving Success Together

Recently our grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing results were released. The results from 2010-2011 are displayed in the chart. All schools in Ontario are working towards a goal of a minimum of 75 % in each of these assessments. Teachers and principals use this information in many ways to improve student achievement. We combine the information from this assessment with everyday classroom indicators to success to ensure that the strategies we are using are contributing to the

most learning possible. We will use this information to adjust our School Improvement Plan.

What do EQAO results tell me about my child?

EQAO test results provide a snapshot of your child's achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Students meeting or exceeding the standard (Levels 3 and 4) have demonstrated most or all of the required reading, writing and mathematics knowledge and skills expected at this stage in their education. However, no single test can offer a complete or definitive picture of what your child has learned. In the end, no one better understands the true measure of your child's abilities and knowledge or is in a better position to access them - than his or her classroom teacher. EQAO and classroom tests provide a more complete picture of your child's knowledge.

EQAO SCHOOL RESULTS

EQAO school tests results and individual results have been distributed. Below are the results for our school, the DSBN, and the province from the testing completed in June, 2011. As a staff, we have been reviewing the test results, and will continue to work toward achieving high standards in all areas of the program.

Percentage of Students At or Above the Provincial Standard

	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 6</u>
Reading	80	83
Writing	60	77
Mathematics	67	53

Friday, October 7th has been designated as a Professional Activity Day for the teachers of the District School Board of Niagara. There will be no student attendance on Friday, October 7th. The Oakridge staff will be attending a series of workshops on a variety of topics.

Student Achievement Reports will be issued on the following dates this year:

Progress Reports – **Nov. 15th, 2011**

Term 1 – **Feb. 9th, 2012**

Term 2 - **June 26th, 2012**

Parent teacher interviews will follow the distribution of the first Progress Report. These interviews will take place over a period of days, however, most staff will be available here at the school on the evening of **Thurs. Nov. 16th between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.** Further information will be forthcoming from your child's teacher. At this time we encourage all parents to schedule an interview to discuss their child's progress.

"Looking ahead - Scholastic Book Fair begins Tuesday, November 1st, more details to follow . . . "

For students planning for the Ottawa Trip, the deposit is due on Friday, October 14th. Please make cheques payable to Oakridge School.

Photo Day

Student photos will be taken on Wednesday, October 12th. If you are not satisfied with the photo that is taken or students are absent on this day, retakes have been scheduled for Thursday, November 10th.

Opportunity for DSBN Families to Provide a short 1-mo. Homestay

January 11 to Feb 7, 2011

Grades 7, 8 & 9 South Korean students are being placed in Grade 7 and 8 classes in your school for a Canadian Cultural and English Language Experience
RSVP asap or by October 30, 2011



Looking for:

DSBN Host Families with

- Gr 7 or Gr 8 children (preferred) or other ages (acceptable) in a St. Catharines' school
- A preference for hosting two visiting international students (hosting one is also acceptable).

Compensation:

- Host families will be compensated for food, lodging, and transportation to school in the morning as well as from after-school activities (after-school activities run Mon-Thu and finish at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.)

For more information or to indicate your interest, please contact ligia_tobon@hotmail.com or call 905-354-6915 asap or by Oct. 30, 2011

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Cross-country	5	6	7 Professional Activity Day	8
6	10 Thanksgiving	11 Power of One Presentations Magazine Orders Due	12 Photo Day DSBN cross-country	13	14 Ottawa Trip Deposit Due	15
16	17	18	19 Grade 7 and 8 Immunizations	20	21 Food Drive Kick-off Assembly	22
23	24 Food Drive	25 Food Drive	26 Food Drive	27 Food Drive	28 Food Drive	29
30	31					