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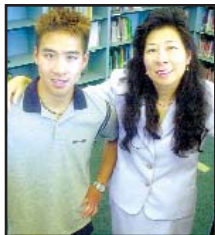
Best of the US West:

Kumon Students in the Press

By Jenny Cherrytree, Los Angeles Office

Kumon students are making headlines for their hard work and success. This issue features five outstanding students who have experienced the rewards of long-time Kumon study and captured the attention of their local press. If your child has recently participated in a news-worthy activity or achieved an outstanding accomplishment - don't forget to share the good news with your instructor. The Kumon family wants to learn about your child's success stories.

The following news stories are hot off the press!



Instructor Betty Leung and her son, Nathan (Photo courtesy of Chris Riley of the *Dispatch*)

San Francisco

Instructor Betty Leung enrolled her son Nathan in Kumon at the age of four to give him "an early start" on learning before kindergarten. The years of daily work paid off for Nathan who scored a perfect 800 on both the math section of the SAT and the SAT 2 Math C exam and was also accepted early decision to Stanford University. The daily newspaper, *The Dispatch* wrote a feature story on Nathan's achievements in the May 31, 2002 issue and the *Morgan Hill Times* interviewed Betty and plans to run a story shortly.



Kumon student, Brian Yabuki (Photo courtesy of Greg Fry of the *Los Angeles Times*)

Los Angeles

Instructor Claire Scherzer's Kumon student, Brian Yabuki achieved a perfect 100% on a recent nationwide exam administered by his school's Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) program. More than 2,000 fourth graders participated in the Math Honors exam that students spent a year preparing for. *The Los Angeles*

Times' Huntington Beach Independent ran a story and photo about Brian's success in the June 6, 2002 issue.



Kumon student, Jordan Otomo (Photo courtesy of Amanda Cowan of the *Maui News*)

Honolulu

Instructor Michael Ueki's long-time Kumon student, Jordan Otomo, 16, has seen the results of Kumon. After more than seven years in the program he scored a perfect 800 in the math section of the SAT while just a freshman in high school. *The Maui News* ran a story and photo about Jordan in the June 18, 2002 issue.



Kumon student, Cynthia Wang

Orange County

Instructor Alice Wang's daughter and long-time Kumon student, Cynthia, 18, of Fullerton scored a perfect 1600 on her SAT and aced the SAT 2 Math C exam while just a junior in high school. The recent graduate was accepted early decision to Stanford University.



Kumon student, Elisa Yoo

San Francisco

Instructor Sue Paik's long-time Kumon student, Elisa Yoo scored a perfect 800 on both the math section of the SAT and SAT 2 Math C exam. The recent graduate was accepted early admission to Stanford University. The daily newspaper, the *San Ramon Valley Times* plans to run a story soon.

We continue our series spotlighting Kumon students, both present and past. If you would like to share your child's success at Kumon, e-mail us at straighttalk@kumon.com

Back to School

Special note to Kumon students at back to school time:

At this time of year, many students feel completely overwhelmed by the sudden increase in workload from school. Let's face it, we've just come through summer where for many of us, the most academic work we had to do was our Kumon. And now we have school homework, Kumon, and other after school activities to contend with. Here are a few tips from a former very successful Kumon student:

- 1) Don't give up...speak to your instructor if you really have to reduce the number of pages.
- 2) Do Kumon before school.
- 3) Think about what you want to achieve this year in Kumon and where you want to be by the end of the school year.
- 4) Try to get your work marked/graded each day by an adult. If you make your corrections before going to the Center, you'll spend less time there.

Remember the first few weeks back are the hardest. Once you get used to the routine again, you'll be back on top of your game academically.

THOUGHTS BY
TORU KUMON

"Advanced study is not just for gifted children."

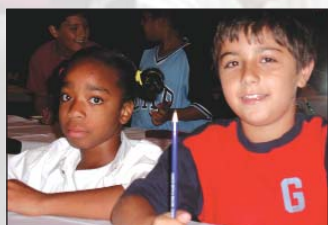
2002 Math Challenge:

Put Your Kumon to the Test!

By Mike Shim, New Jersey Office

On July 14th students from Kumon Centers across Canada, the US Midwest and Eastern regions were invited to take the "2002 Math Challenge." Held at prestigious universities such as MIT, Columbia, Northwestern, University of Toronto and University of British Columbia, this event provided students with the opportunity to apply what they have learned, to practice test-taking skills (especially during the sleepy summer months), and to meet other hard working Kumon students. Although it's too soon to congratulate the winner of the 10 categories (one for each grade 1-10), we would like to applaud all the students who took The Challenge.

Past results have demonstrated an interesting trend: the higher one studies in Kumon math, the higher the score on The Math Challenge. Like Kumon, The Challenge is timed but unlike Kumon, the test contains at least 30% non-calculation questions such as geometry, word problems and math reasoning. We believe that these results reflect the fact that long term Kumon math students have a great opportunity to master basic calculation (elementary through high school) and this allows them to spend time manipulating and processing higher order math questions such as those on this test.



2002 Math Challenge participants arrive at Monmouth University in NJ



Mrs. Margaret Coloney,
President and CEO of The
Center for Hope Hospice

Pencilpower Camp Director Extends a Big Thank You...

"We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Kumon students and parents everywhere from our Hospice here in New Jersey. We've named our pencilpower camp "Camp Hope 2002" and your donations have already begun to help. Children affected by the 9/11 tragedy have been coming to our day camps throughout the summer where they have been encouraged to express themselves through music and art therapy. Perhaps we should get them to solve Kumon worksheets too!

We advertised "Camp Hope" through the area schools and community organizations and it's growing in popularity as the summer progresses. In a small community nearby called Cranford, five dads perished that day leaving behind 10 children in all. These kids are coming to our camps and are doing well. Having these children meet others affected in a similar manner has been an excellent way of dealing with their grief.

Once the spotlight on such tragic events as 9/11 fades, so too does the public's interest in helping those who were left behind. These bereavement camps are a wonderful way of helping these children heal. And the thought of Kumon children helping children whom they don't even know is very touching to us all. Congratulations to all of you in Kumon and the Moyer Foundation for your Pencilpower initiative. God bless you all."

Sincerely,
Mrs. Margaret Coloney
President and CEO
Center for Hope Hospice
Linden, NJ USA



Children attend Camp Hope 2002, in
Scotch Plains, NJ.

Summer Reading List

Summer is a great time to relax and read many books written by a favorite author. The RRL offers a variety of choices.

[Quick as a Cricket](#), [The Napping House](#), and [Silly Sally](#) are by Audrey Wood.

[Hop on Pop](#), [Green Eggs and Ham](#), [Horton Hatches the Egg](#), [Oh, the Places You'll Go!](#) are by Dr. Seuss.

[The Empty Pot](#), [One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale](#), and [Liang and the Magic Paintbrush](#) are by Demi.

[Dear Mr. Henshaw](#), [The Mouse and the Motorcycle](#), [Ramona Forever](#), [Ramona and Her Father](#), as well as the rest of the Ramona series, are all written by Beverly Cleary.

[Little House in the Big Woods](#) is the first in a series by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

[Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#), [James and the Giant Peach](#), [Fantastic Mr. Fox](#) are just three selections by Roald Dahl.

[The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#), the most famous in a series by C.S. Lewis.



Doctor on Call

Dr. Andi Addresses Today's Parenting Issues

Two Secrets Behind Math Word Problems

A note to Kumon parents...

Word problems play a significant role on standardized tests and in math textbooks. To improve their math word problem solving skills, students need two things.

1

They need to improve their reading comprehension.

2

They need to be able to calculate quickly.

Solving math word problems is a math-reading issue, not just a math issue. How something is written can be just as difficult as what is written. If students do not possess above grade level reading skills, they may have a difficult time solving word problems - even though they have good calculation skills. And if students do not possess advanced calculation skills, they will waste their time slowly doing calculations rather than attending to the nuances of the language of math word problems. Reading math word problems can be challenging even for good math students for the following reasons:

- **Math questions demand that readers use reading skills that are specific to the math content.**
- **Math authors generally write in a terse or compact style.**
Each sentence contains a lot of information; thus, students who read math word problems too quickly may miss significant details or underlying logic.
- **Math requires students to be proficient at words and symbols.**
The reader must shift from "sounding out" words like plus or minus to instantly recognizing their symbolic counterparts, + and -.
- **Vocabulary and sentence structure in mathematics are especially difficult for students who are reading only at or below grade level** because many math textbooks as well as math word problems are written above the grade level for which they are intended.

Students can become successful word problem solvers if they become more successful at reading comprehension because it is the same comprehension skills used by effective readers that are used to solve math word problems. Students also need to grow their math vocabulary and gain the confidence that comes with mastering calculation skills. If Kumon students advance their skills in both disciplines over the long-term, they will possess the necessary tools to succeed at solving word problems.

We've Got Mail



You asked.
Dr. Andi answered.

Dear Dr. Andi,

My son is almost 8 and will be going into the 3rd grade in September. He is struggling with reading and his spelling is very poor. His 2nd grade teacher recommended that he be tested because she thinks he is dyslexic. I enrolled him in Kumon this summer. Should I get him tested and can Kumon help him learn how to read if he is dyslexic?

Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between a child who is a "garden-variety poor reader" or a "slow starter" from one who has a learning disability. All children who experience difficulty in learning to read are not dyslexic. Dyslexia is a complex language disability that results in difficulty learning to read, spell, recognize and manipulate the correct sounds of speech that correspond to the letters of the alphabet.

It is genetic and one does not outgrow it. However, a child with dyslexia can learn to manage it and become a very successful adult. Some famous people who have had dyslexia include Thomas Edison, Einstein, Charles Schwab, Tom Cruise....

Since your son's teacher recommended an evaluation, you should be able to have this done at school without cost to you. The earlier you know whether or not your son has a learning disability, the sooner proper intervention can begin. If he has dyslexia, he will be given an individual educational plan (I.E.P.) at school. Treatment may include speech therapy as well as seeing a reading specialist.

Enrolling your son in the Kumon Reading program would supplement and reinforce the instruction he would receive from the reading specialist at school. Some of the same strategies that experts recommend for dyslexia are found in our reading program. For example, reading experts recommend that these children be explicitly and systematically taught letter names and sounds; that a multisensory approach be used; that sight word vocabulary be built; that reading aloud to the child and listening to the child read are important daily activities. The Kumon Reading Program will help to maximize your son's potential. Best of luck to you and your son.

Dr. Andi

If you have a question or comment for Dr. Andrea Pastorok please contact her at:
askdrandi@kumon.com



Adnaar

Adnaar is currently studying Level E math in 3rd grade. He thrives on competition and looks forward to surpassing his cousin who is also enrolled in Kumon.



Akhil & Saamil

Akhil and Saamil 4th grade twin brothers are Kumon G-by-5 reading students. They are planning on studying right through to the end of Level K reading. They also won Gold and Bronze medals in a recent spelling contest at school.



Gordon

This 4 year old is studying Level B math while still attending preschool and is tri-lingual speaking English, Chinese and Spanish.



Scott

At 12, Scott is currently studying Level I math and successfully completed Level J in reading. He and his mother are strong supporters of Kumon and attribute much of his success to it.



J.J.

Before starting Kumon, JJ struggled with reading. Since enrollment last year, his parents have seen a major improvement, not only in grades but in his self-confidence as well.



Sneha

At 9, Sneha enjoys the challenge that Kumon provides as well as the confidence of knowing she is studying Level F in math which is "way above" her grade level.



Ashlee

This teenager just "didn't get it" until enrolling in Kumon math. Since then, Ashlee, now 13, has seen an improvement not only in her math but other subjects as well.



Rodney

Consistent attendance and homework completion along with supportive parents helps this 11 year old remain goal oriented to complete Level AI reading.



Shawn

This independent 5 year old loves Kumon so much that he often does not want to leave the Center after completing his math and reading.



Seiko

At 12, Seiko knows first-hand the benefits of becoming an advanced learner with Kumon. He believes Kumon "teaches you things before you even learn it".



Nihar

G Level math is just one of the accomplishments of the gifted 9 year old. Nihar plans on completing the entire math and reading curriculum.



*Interested in having your child featured?
Please talk to your Kumon Instructor.*

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