

Thank You to **10,690** Students!!!



Some Facts about the July 13th Event:

- Grades three and four had the most participants (30.5%)
- The University of Toronto was the largest site with 12% of the students
- 36% of the students who took the Challenge in the US East were not even Kumon Students
- More than 1900 students attended the four California sites; this was the first year in the Golden State
- First time universities in Atlanta and Houston hosted more than 250 students each
- St. Louis, Minneapolis and Cincinnati were added to the US Midwest region this year
- Press coverage of the event was remarkable

Thank you again to all the students and parents who took time out of their busy summer schedule to take part in the Kumon Math Challenge! July 13th, 2003 is a day that will go down in Kumon history for a long time. On that day, more than 10,000 children from all over North America took and survived the 2003 Kumon Math Challenge. Last year we had 5,200 students. Held at prestigious universities such as MIT, Columbia, the University of Toronto and UBC, to name a few, this event provided Kumon and the public the opportunity to apply math skills in a university environment. The tests are being scored and the names of the winners of each of the ten grade categories are expected to be emailed or mailed in late September 2003. The Math Challenge was a multiple-choice-test with basic calculation problems as well as word problems, algebra and geometry questions. This was the sixth annual Kumon Math Challenge.

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THOUGHTS BY

"Searching for the real potential of children is the aim of good education"

Midwest Success

Christopher and Stephanie Hsu, advanced Kumon math students at the Kettering, Ohio Kumon Math and Reading Center, are success stories. This brother and sister team from Centerville, OH recently participated in the A.C.S.I. Math Olympics. Stephanie went home with a trophy and blue ribbon for placing first in Computation at her grade level, while Christopher placed second in Computation at his. Both were featured in local area newspapers.

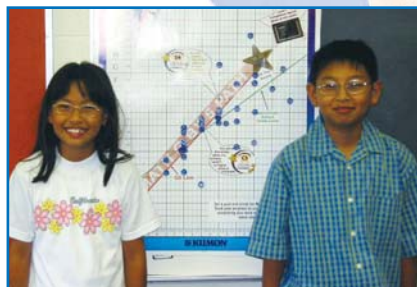


Kumon has been a part of the Hsu family's lives since Christopher was in kindergarten. He started Kumon Math by connecting dots and solving mazes. Now, in 6th grade, Christopher is in Level J, while Stephanie, a 4th grader, will soon advance to Level G.

Their mother Jinq-Meei Hsu talks about their history with Kumon, which she finds to be very similar to the way she learned math when she was young. "I had to do a lot of repetition on math homework, which is why I would like to have my kids do the same thing," said Jinq-Meei.

Christopher was one of Instructor Rose Cheng's first students at her Kettering Center, which opened in 1997. Stephanie followed suit two years later, and the two have been Kumon students ever since. At first, Christopher claims that he did not want to go to Kumon because he did not know what to expect. There were struggles in the beginning, says Jinq-Meei. "When they were younger, they would like to play and they couldn't sit still," she said, "they would complain, cry, and do all they could to get out of doing their Kumon." "It would take forever," said Jinq-Meei, "I learned a lot of patience."

Eventually, both Christopher and Stephanie found joy in completing each level, understanding an unfamiliar concept, and conquering a frustrating problem. It was that sense of accomplishment that made Kumon a part of their daily lives, year after year after year. "Now they know it's their work, so they don't complain, they set up their own goals," said Jinq-Meei. Both claim that doing Kumon has helped them with their schoolwork as well. "All math is easy," said Christopher, "I love doing long division problems."



Stephanie and Christopher Hsu

Christopher has the ambitious goal of reaching the Kumon calculus Level before high school, and he hopes to finish the program by the time he graduates. Both Christopher and Stephanie are accustomed to doing Kumon each day, even on vacation. "On vacation they cannot carry piano or cello, but they can pack their Kumon," Jinq-Meei says, laughing.

Christopher and Stephanie both agree that they would not quit Kumon now because of all they have achieved with the program. So what advice would this Kumon family give to others? "Kumon is going to help your child. The growing process may be painful, but it is fruitful. Just don't give up!" said Jinq-Meei.

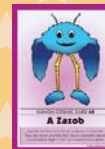
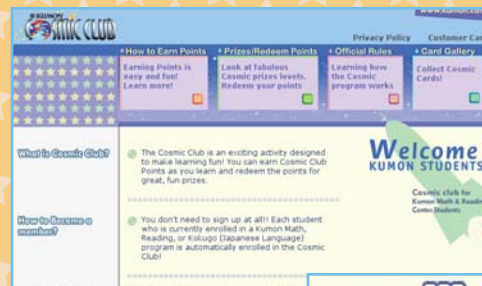
New Cosmic Club Website!! New Look, New Prizes, & a whole lot more!

The new Cosmic Club Website was launched on July 1, 2003. This new site is comprised of updated information and prizes. It even has a new Cosmic Club card gallery for all those fanatical collectors!

These are some of the new and exciting features you'll find:

- ★ Online access to Cosmic Club points
- ★ A New Design
- ★ A New Navigation
- ★ No More Login
- ★ Updated Information on how to earn and redeem points
- ★ New prizes (i.e. Barnes and Noble Gift Certificate)
- ★ An Engaging Site for Kids to Enjoy
- ★ New Cosmic Club Cards Gallery

If you would like any additional information please visit us at www.cosmic.kumon.com

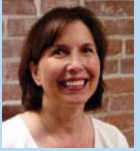




Doctor on Call

Dr. Andi Addresses Today's Parenting Issues

School Days, School Days, Good Old "Do-Your-Homework" Days...



Now that your child has had time to adjust to the new school year, how are **you** coping with it? Returning to school can be as stressful for parents as it is for children. Juggling schedules, providing transportation for after school activities, monitoring school and Kumon homework, and reinstating bedtime schedules are among the many challenges that we face at this time of year. But perhaps the most challenging task for parents is to create a positive learning environment, a place in the home which learning in general is nurtured and encouraged, and homework (both Kumon and school) is done efficiently and willingly.

Such an environment can be created by doing several simple things:

A. Encourage reading in your home

- ★ Have books and other reading material on hand.
- ★ Read during his quiet homework time.
- ★ Read to your child daily and listen to him read aloud.

B. Let your child know that you are interested in her school life and her Kumon work

- ★ Discuss books, homework, and Kumon worksheets.
- ★ Discuss the school day and the visits to Kumon
- ★ Set goals together and reinforce them with lots of praise.
- ★ Grade/Mark her Kumon and return it for immediate correction.

C. Prepare your home and child for homework success

- ★ Assign a pre-planned daily-homework/Kumon-time.
- ★ Use a weekly calendar to jot down music lesson/practice, sports practice/game, doctor/dentist appointment. Then, assign a Daily-Homework-Time (DHT) for each day.
- ★ Turn off the TV, stereo, phones and other distractions during DHT. If your child finishes his work before DHT is up, have him read a book.
- ★ Create an organized homework area/Kumon corner in your home which is free from distractions. This is where your child should do homework each day.
- ★ Equip the homework corner with necessary supplies such as sharpened pencils, eraser, digital clock and even a dictionary.

D. Make the homework experience easy for parents and children by following these tips.

- ★ Become a homework facilitator, not a homework doer. Walk your child through the directions and examples to ensure that she understands her work but do not do the homework for her!
- ★ Have your child do her Kumon before she starts her school homework. Doing so will exercise her brain and put her in the right state of mind.

- ★ Be positive and offer encouragement because children will believe in themselves if someone else believes in them.

E. Handle a difficult child by being assertive, not punitive

- ★ If your child gives you a hard time about doing his homework, do not argue with him. Instead, calmly let your child know that you expect him to do his Kumon worksheets or homework on his own during DHT. Be assertive, but not aggressive. Simply tell him, over and over if necessary, that homework is his job and his responsibility. It is a parent's responsibility to create an environment that is conducive to working and studying.
- ★ If your child continues to complain, tell him that he has a choice. **1)** He can reasonably choose to do his homework, or **2)** He can foolishly choose to lose his privileges, (e.g. 2 nights of not doing homework = forfeiting a weekend sleepover.) The choice is his.
- ★ Make certain that your child understands that you are not responsible for the loss of privileges; he is! By making the "poor" choice of not doing his homework, he alone is responsible for the consequences.
- ★ Don't wait for parent/teacher conferences before meeting your child's teacher or Kumon Instructor. Make an effort to get to know the educators in your children's lives and create an alliance with them so that you are all on the same page!

If parents set a goal of instilling in their children the love of and desire for learning, they will be well on their way to achieving that goal if the proper environment is created. Start slowly, choosing from my list the suggestions that fit most closely into your lifestyle, and gradually adding others until you feel confident that you have successfully created a unique positive learning environment for your child. Good luck in your endeavors. The fruit of your labor will be a team effort resulting in contented parents, motivated students, and grateful teachers and instructors.



LOOK
for the next
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Kazu Shibata

Managing Editor:
M. Dean Bradley

Contributors:
Andrea Pastorok, Ph.D.
Steve Syby

Design & Layout:
Kristen Saberito

Questions? Comments?
Please email us at:
straighttalk@kumon.com



Gabrielle

Determined to excel in math, this nine-year-old accomplished her goal through Kumon and lots of repetition. Gabrielle's advice to others is "keep on trying and you'll get better".



Avni

Since enrolling in Kumon, four-year-old Avni is already working independently. Her parents are very proud of her accomplishments.



Scott

Ten-year-old Scott, understands the importance of his Kumon studies. He has become the fastest reader in his class and wants to reach his goal of Level G math by the fifth grade.



Lianna

This award winning young author has been studying Kumon for four years. She has been a Math Challenge finalist for the past few years and looks forward to winning the Challenge this year.



Hans

This second grader excels at both math & reading. He loves to play and read about sports. Hans knows that practice makes perfect in the classroom as well as on the basketball court.



Niral

This hard-working tenth grade student has completed reading Level K and is currently in math Level K200. Niral never gives up. He is looking forward to doing Level L math.



Rohan

Kumon has helped this eleven-year-old tremendously. At school he is in a program for gifted children. Besides his studies, Rohan enjoys sports and piano. His ambition is to become a Cardiologist or an NBA star.



Shawn

Following in his brother Rohan's footsteps, Shawn is also in a gifted program at school. He attributes his success and self-confidence to Kumon. This nine-year-old likes to sing and play the drums.



Jamila

This four-year-old, who started Kumon in May, 2003, is acquiring the basic foundation skills that she will need to be successful in school and to grow her self-confidence. This spirited little girl also enjoys singing and painting.



Austen

Seventh grader, Austen, has always been at the top of his class thanks to Kumon. This dedicated Boy Scout hopes to one day serve his country as a member of the United States Air Force.



Christopher

This nine-year-old Level D math & Level CI reading student is racing ahead at full speed. He is very dedicated and thanks Kumon for helping him achieve his goals.



Audrey

This eleven-year-old has read all of the Recommended Reading List (RRL) books for her level. She enjoys reading and loves to collect books. Audrey is in H Level reading and I Level math.

* A.S.H.R.: Advanced Student Honor Roll

* G.A.T.E.: Gifted and Talented Education Program

Interested in having your child featured?

All Photos **MUST** be accompanied by a completed and signed **Student Profile Form**. Photos sent without a completed form will not be considered. To request a form please ask your Instructor or email us at straighttalk@kumon.com

Faces of Kumon information is based on information at time of photo submission.

