



Who Knew?,  
New News!

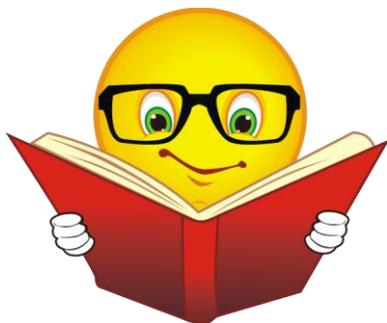


October 2019  
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## October Newsletter

### Book Fair

The book fair is in the elementary library until October 17<sup>th</sup>. The book fair is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for parents and students. It will be open during Parent/Teacher Conferences from 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please come in and check out our book fair.



### Show-Me Success Assembly

Fifth grade will be presenting at this month's assembly on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Please come out and support the children if you can.

### Red Ribbon Week

October 28<sup>th</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>

**Monday**—USA Proud Wear red, white, and blue.

**Tuesday**—Stick with a twin and say **NO!** Find someone and dress alike (Twin Day).

**Wednesday**—We Must(ache) say **NO!** Wear a mustache.

**Thursday**—School Spirit Day. Wear green and gold.

**Friday**—Dress-Up Day. Wear your Halloween costume.

### Upcoming Events

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**—End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**—Reading Fun Day trip

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**—Parent/Teacher Conferences, School dismisses at 12:15 p.m.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**—No School

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**—Show-Me Success Assembly at 12:00 p.m. and Haunted Hallway in high school from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>**—Red Ribbon Week

**October 29<sup>th</sup>**—Flu Clinic

## Making Math Facts Fun

Jennifer Hogan

Taken from <https://www.scholastic.com>

Practicing math facts can be very boring and a terrible part of homework for both children and parents. BUT, we all know how important it is for students to memorize their math facts. Many teachers are moving away from timed tests in the classroom and relying on math facts to be practiced weekly at home. Unfortunately, most children don't want to practice them and it ends up being a battle for all involved!

Traditional flash cards are a good way to practice math skills, but you can also practice these five fun strategies for helping your children memorize their math facts without using flash cards:

**1. Colored Dice:** Pick up a bag of colored dice at a local bookstore or pharmacy. Students roll the dice and either add or multiply the two numbers to practice their facts. This is an easy game for them to do while you are making dinner or even sitting at a restaurant. You can play against each other and keep score of who has the greatest sum or product.

**2. Math War:** Using either a deck of playing cards or a deck you've made out of index cards, play "war" to practice facts. Split the cards between the two players. Turn over the top two cards – you can either add, subtract (keeping positive answers), or multiply the two cards to see who wins. The winner takes all 4 cards, and you play again just like the traditional card game of war. Whoever has the most cards at the end wins!

**3. 100 Chart:** The 100 chart is an amazing tool to help build your children's number sense and allow them to use something concrete to memorize their facts. They can use it as a visual tool when they need a point of reference or they can use it as a tactile tool by touching the numbers or using a game piece to count forwards and backwards. For multiplication and division, have your children color in the multiples of each number so they can start to see patterns with the facts. For example: to learn the facts of 6, color in 6, 12, 18, etc. so only the multiples of 6 are colored in. Your child will start to make a connection to the products of each fact instead of just memorizing random numbers. (You can print free 100 charts off the Internet.)

**4. Triangle Facts:** These are used as traditional flash cards, but they help to make the connection between all three numbers in the fact which is so important for the "memorizing" process. Choose a fact, e.g.,  $6 + 3 = 9$ . Place each number in the corner of the triangle with a star next to the answer (in this case, 9). While holding the triangular card, cover one of the numbers with your finger so your child can only see 2 numbers, then have him/her find the missing number to complete the fact. For extra practice, have your child write the 4 fact families for each card. Students can practice on their own or you can quiz them. Triangle facts are easy and fast! You can buy them, make them yourself, or print them free online.

**5. I Know Cards:** This is a great way to help with the facts that your child gets stuck on every time! There are always those tough facts that students just sometimes can't remember, so making "I know cards" will help them come up with a strategy for finding the answer. For example: to help with  $6 \times 7 = 42$ , have your child write on an index card or piece of paper, "I know  $6 \times 6$  is 36, so I add one more group of 6:  $36 + 6 = 42$ , so  $6 \times 7 = 42$ ". Your child can use whatever strategy he or she likes but the focus is on what s/he already knows, not what s/he doesn't know. You can hang the "I know cards" in their rooms or read through them weekly.

## Labels Information

Every time a class turns in a thousand labels they earn a free recess. At the end of the year, the class that has turned in the most labels will receive a prize. Here are the results as of October 7<sup>th</sup>:

Kindergarten—293

1<sup>st</sup> Grade—1,077

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade—353

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—592

4<sup>th</sup> Grade—347

5<sup>th</sup> Grade—454

6<sup>th</sup> Grade—490



1. Begin by purchasing Prairie Farms milk in gallon or half gallon sizes.
2. Peel off the Prairie Farms cap sticker to reveal a unique, redeemable code.
3. Select a participating charity to donate your points.
4. Enter cap codes.
5. Click the donate button.

Dear Parents and/or Caregivers,

We have applied to be part of the Our Caps, Your Cause program with Prairie Farms. Please begin saving your milk caps from Prairie Farms milk jugs and send them to school with your child. We will have a competition between classes to see who can bring in the most caps—similar to what we do with Best Choice labels and Box Tops. Money raised will help fund our Reading Fun Day trips. Thanks for all you do to support your child's education.

With kind regards,  
Mrs. Porter

### Simple Tips to Encourage Reading

1. Make a habit of reading to your child every day, whether she is a one-year-old or a 10-year-old.
2. When your child is able, have him read to you. You can take turns reading chapters in a simple chapter book, for example.
3. Get a library card for your child. Go to the library every week and take out several books.
4. Be aware of your child's interests and direct your child to related books.
5. Try to find a series that she really likes and will want to continue reading.
6. Provide a comfortable reading area, with good lighting, in your home.
7. Discuss books with your child.
8. If your child is a reluctant reader and not reading on grade level, buy her hi/lo books (books with a high-interest level, low vocabulary).
9. Talk to your child's teacher and ask for suggestions.
10. If your child responds well to incentives and enjoys using the computer, enroll in an [online book group](#) (with your supervision).
11. If your child really enjoys a particular author, check with your librarian about other authors or books he might enjoy.
12. Children also often enjoy the opportunity to read children's magazines.