



# Tiger Cub News

January 9, 2012

## Math training for teachers continues!

Monday, January 16th will mark our second in a series of Math teacher training for the Early Elementary. We're looking at all of the new Common Core State Standards and how to teach math more conceptually, even looking at the NEW definition of fluency! It's a whole new way of looking at math instruction.

For example, we used to define fluency as the ability to spit out those math facts as fast as possible. Now the fluency approach to addition facts places the focus more on developing and using mathematical strategies, with the goal of

finding effective ways to use KNOWN facts to then derive unknown facts. Sound confusing?

Actually, it's almost easier. If your child learns addition doubles and combinations to 10, they can figure out the other combinations by using those facts that they know. (It really does work.)

Other instructional changes include focusing more on the development of number sense. Can your child look at a ten frame with a dot pattern and know the quantity without counting all the dots? Do they recognize that three

dots plus two dots is the same quantity as two dots plus three dots?

Seems simple to us but that recognition and flexibility goes a long way in setting the stage for mastering more difficult concepts in math in higher grades!

In the past we looked only for 'THE' correct answer. Now we ask our students to explain their thinking and tell us HOW they got the answer. It teaches them to think mathematically — and that's a good thing.

I predict that it will be the adults that have the harder time adjusting to this new, stronger math thinking!

## Special points of interest:

- ☺ January 12  
Talent Show Tryouts
- ☺ January 16  
No school  
Teacher Inservice
- ☺ January 19  
Half day AM  
PM Kindergartens attend in the AM  
Teacher Inservice PM
- ☺ January 25  
Talent Show 6:30 PM at High School
- ☺ January 26  
Mobile Dentist
- ☺ January 27  
Talent Show at the Elementary School

## We need Family Fun Night help!

We even changed the times to a little bit earlier hoping that we could get just a couple more of our wonderful parent volunteers to sign up to help run a game or sell tickets or run the "Cake Walk"!

We just need your help for only one little hour on Friday, February 3rd!

And you have your choice of times!

**5:45 to 6:45 PM** or  
**6:45 to 7:45 PM**

So come join us for Family Fun Night and please consider helping out for one hour — you'll have fun doing it! Honest!

You can call and leave a message on our TCB hotline at 586-784-5254!

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## New website out for parents to research the new "Cut Scores"

Wondering about all the buzz about the state assigning new "Cut Scores" to ALL school districts for the MEAP results? Us, too.

Seems confusing at first to take the MEAP scores and then revamp the whole rating scales.

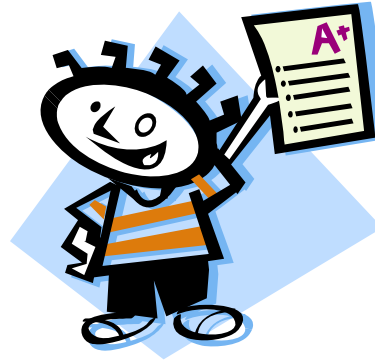
But the advantage for education and for our children is that the new scores will give us a more accurate reflection of how we are actually doing compared to other states on our state assessments such as MEAP.

We are hoping that the following video link will help explain the concept of the new cut scores and help make

sense of the state's new scoring system.

A reminder that after all the MEAP scores were determined (Krause's third grade scores are still the highest in the county) the state 'renamed' those same scores, using a different scale system. The results are what is called our new cut scores. Same tests. Same right and wrong answers. Just a different way of listing them and looking at them.

This video, by the way is 11 minutes



long so it will take a few minutes to view. And again, it doesn't change the results of our MEAP tests. It offers a different view of our student performance — one that looks at longer term goals.

<http://www.mistreamnet.com.vidflv.php?who=resa121611>

You might even want to get a bowl of popcorn to munch while viewing!

## Low cost computers

In case you missed this on our own Project Care website, COMCAST recently announced a program to help low income families with the purchase of a computer.

Families who qualify for free lunches can get internet access for only \$9.95 per month and can purchase a low cost computer for \$149.00.

If you qualify and are interested, just

go to:

<http://www.internetessentials.com/about/index.html>

If you don't have access to a computer or Smart phone to get to this site, please just call the office and we can arrange for a time for you to come in and use our computers to access this site and get the needed information.

In today's society it seems that technology is becoming even more entwined in our everyday lives. We ALL need to be proficient technologically — it's the future!

**Low cost computers and very low cost internet service available!**

## MEAP results available on line as well

Did you know you can go online to see MEAP results?

Just go to the Armada Area Schools website and click on MI School Data (blue logo) on the homepage. Then click on Assessment Results, then MEAP.



As you look over the scores please remember that since the MEAP is given to all students in the fall of each year, it is the Third Grade scores are used to reflect the quality of instruction in the Kindergarten through Second Grade portion of the district.

And, of course, you'll notice

that our Third Grade Reading Scores are THE highest in the county — with Math scores close behind. This is not a fluke but has been our pattern for the last ten years! The credit goes to our wonderful classroom teachers at Krause Early Elementary. It is their dedication, talent, and continued search for stronger instructional strategies that make this happen.

## Full Day Kindergarten — Full speed ahead!

It's true! Next year (2012-13) all of our Kindergarten classes will run for a full day — all except our Readiness class, we should say. Our Readiness will still be held as a half day session and will 'feed into' the full day Kindergarten program the subsequent year.

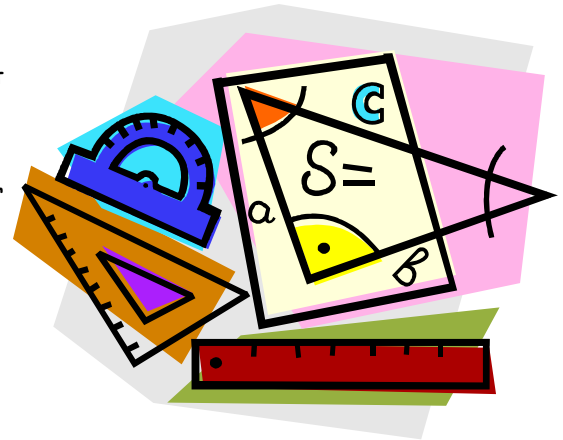
This will naturally mean that we will be able to improve our curriculum — adding more math, more Science, more Social Studies and writing, and even Mandarin Chinese for a half hour every day for every Kindergartner!

There will be no cost for this full day experience — no more child care checks or lunch supervisory costs.

The schedule for the day will be no different than if your child attended a first grade, second grade or other grade class! Kindergartners will start school right along with everyone else at 8:40 AM and dismiss right along with everyone else at 3:38 PM.

Just to put your mind at ease, our Kindergartners will eat their lunches in their classrooms and will not come down to the cafeteria during lunch time. TOO overwhelming for them — and our cafeteria does not have a sink or bathroom directly on

site in the room. More information will be presented at Kindergarten Round Up on the afternoons of March 6th and March 7th. See you there!



## A school full of snakes...

...and lizards, and geckos, and other reptiles! And it really isn't a school full — just an assembly full of them on Monday, January 23rd. (Great way to start off a week, isn't it?)

Krause Early Elementary will host a Science assembly focusing on reptiles. It will include their characteristics, how they differ from other animal groups, eating habits, habitats, and

how they move — all with live animals! Please be assured that all students will be on the floor of the cafeteria and the animals will be on the stage area. All teachers will be there in attendance so if your child is one of those who might become VERY uncomfortable at the sight of these creatures, we can easily let them go to the office ASAP.

Teachers — we're sorry but you all will have to tough it out with these little reptiles! Just keep thinking, "Snakes are my friend. Snakes are my friend!"



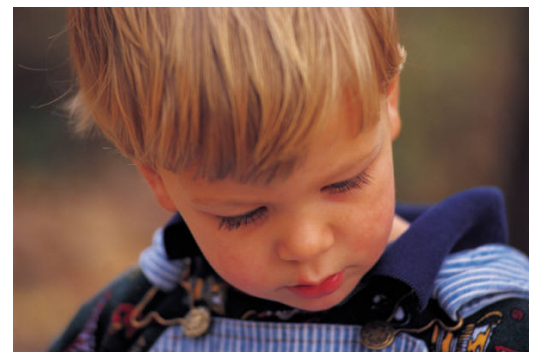
## Armada Early Childhood Program is still accepting students

Even though we are almost 50% through the school year our preschool and child care are still accepting new students!

We have revamped our program for four year olds and are changing our curriculum for three year olds as well. Since our full day Kindergartens start next fall, we decided to improve the four year old program beginning this

PAST fall! And the children are doing just great! The challenge seems to be for us to keep up with them — and not the other way around!

If you are interested in more information on any of our child care or programs, please contact Director Mrs. Sandy VanVyve at 586-784-2681.



# Talent Show Tryouts January 12th!

Come on! Show us what ya got, Armada! We KNOW how talented you really are! Just step up and join our show!

Dancing, singing, musical instruments, jokes, or gymnastics? Whatever it is, polish your act and sign up for tryouts on January 12th!

Please remember that we need a signed permission slip in order to tryout and that acts can't be more than two minutes long.

And we recommend that all music and motions be reviewed by parents before going to tryouts. (We don't want to have any disappointed performers or any shocked audiences so please remember to keep it G-rated!)

Need a permission slip? You'll find it right on the back page of this newsletter!



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## Mobile Dentist on the way!

The dentists are coming! All you need is to fill out a permission slip — and we have them available for the asking.

Just call Mrs. King in the office and ask for one to be sent home with your child.

There is no cost for this service and the experts truly do a great job with our students.

We will need those permission slips back ASAP since the dentists come on January 26th!



*Cold weather MAY be coming!*

*(Who knows now days!)*

*Please remember to send boots, gloves, and warm clothes with your child just in case the weather gets colder during the day!*

Don't forget about Movie Night on January 12th! Mr. Popper's Penguins will be shown starting at 6:30 PM — doors will open at 6:00 PM. Free admission and concessions will be available for purchase! So, bring a pillow and blanket and join us!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE WITH AN ADULT AND THAT YOU MAY NOT BRING IN ANY OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS.**

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