

Brainy Groveland Board

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More Information

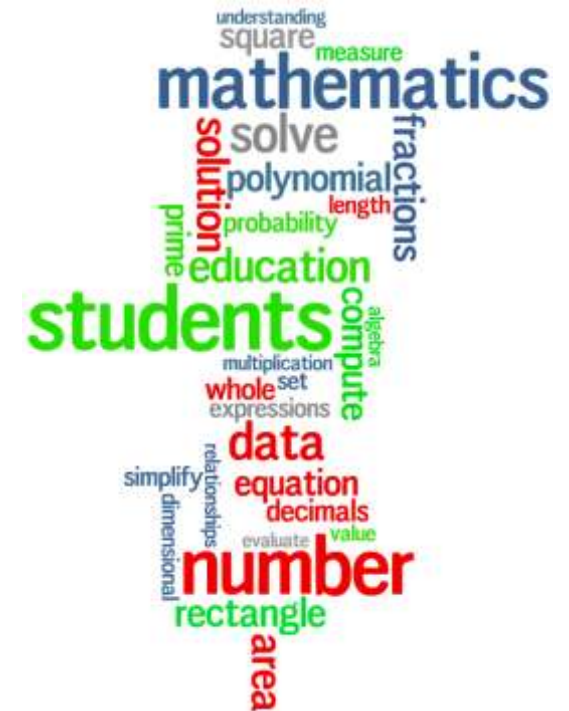
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Brainy Groveland Math Contests



Current Programs

Brainy Groveland's reading program began with a successful pilot program during the last months of the 2008-2009 school year. During the 2009-10 school year, 53 second and third-graders read 859 books and earned \$1,832. Volunteers spent 212 hours at the school.

The mathematics contest series is a new project, with the first event scheduled for October 18, 2010

Program Motivation

We believe that the first years of mathematics are essential learning for every child. Elementary students don't know what their educational aspirations or career goals will be. Learning elementary mathematics thoroughly helps keep the door open to the full range of possibilities.

The goal of the math program is not to teach math, but to give students an extra reason to pay attention in class and to seek out opportunities to improve their mathematics skills.

As with the Brainy Groveland reading program, we hope to motivate students with cash rewards, but the format is entirely different.

The Contests

We will be holding occasional mathematics contests for students who reside in south Tuolumne County. These are open to students from 4th to 7th grade, regardless of where they attend school.

The contest is a computer-based test loosely based on the

California Mathematics Content Standards. Only selected sections of the standards are included, but more will be added as time goes on. Currently there are 28 subject areas, with tens of thousands of different questions in the underlying database.

All students will start with the easiest material and will progress to harder material depending on their accuracy. Speed is not a factor in the test. Scores will be offset by grade level in an attempt to give students in any grade a chance at the top prizes.

The rewards are structured to encourage a wide range of students. Rather than rewarding only first, second, and third places, the prizes will go at least 20 students deep. The amounts will be adjusted from one contest to the next depending on participation.

Background

The reading program was born when Steve Ryan wanted to do something to enhance early education in Groveland. An online search led to a program called Earning by Learning in Dallas, Texas

(www.eblofdallas.org). The program was favorably reviewed by a Harvard professor. Our program is a scaled down (and unaffiliated) version of the Dallas program.

The mathematics program is an entirely original effort, and as such is more experimental. It will be improved and adjusted after each event. Whether it will become a permanent part of Brainy Groveland is yet to be determined.

Today Brainy Groveland has a board of four members who plan to maintain the reading program and explore other ways to promote education in the Groveland area.

Funding

Funding for the program comes from a charitable trust. We do not ask for donations. GAINs (Groveland Area Involved Neighbors) acts as fiscal agent to help move the funds to the students.