

March 31, 2015

Dear Fuller Families,

Happy Spring! We knew it had to come someday, and many of us were dreaming about it in February during a time of record-breaking blizzards and snow fall. We are looking forward to all the excitement that comes with the new season and the final trimester of the school year.

This month, I will be sharing information about the following topics:

- 1) Fuller Future Dates
- 2) Fuller Math Spotlight
- 3) PARCC update
- 4) Report cards

#### Fuller Future Dates

You will notice that I have not listed the “**Future Fuller Dates**” in this email; this is due to the fact that Ron Harvey sends this information out to you on a daily basis. We hope that you are finding these emails to be informative and helpful. Ron is very skilled at pulling together all the Fuller details into a format that is designed to assist you with being informed and for your planning purposes.

#### Fuller Math Spotlight

*As we approach trimester 3, all Fuller students are actively engaging in the mathematical practices of making sense of problems and persevering in solving them, constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others, modeling with mathematics, and attending to precision while developing their understanding and procedure of the mathematics.*

Lime.com and Opal United students have been stepping into the world of algebra through equations and inequalities. Students are working with math that is used by businesses every day. They create algebraic expressions and equations given a set of data and use variables to describe the relationships found in the data. We have used examples of businesses tracking their profits and losses, staffing hours and materials needed for projects. We are persevering through these real world contextualized problems!

Titanium Tangerine students actively engaged in the exercises from the website IXL as a review for a quiz on writing expressions and equations from word problems as well as solving equations. Each student was able to work on the appropriate level and skill to support his/her individual needs. Students who were ready to be challenged had the opportunity to do so, while those needing additional practice and support had this option.

It was great to watch students celebrate when they got questions correct, and challenge themselves to get to 100 points! The data provided by IXL displayed which students mastered the content and those were not yet there. This informed future instruction.

After finishing the 7th grade equations and expressions unit, Platinum Inspiration students used the chrome books to become familiar with entering answers into the PARCC equation editor to prepare for the math sessions of PARCC. The next unit of study will focus on solving real-world percentage problems as we delve into the second part of the Ratios and Proportions standard.

Students on the Built Blue team have been busy solving simultaneous equations and transforming geometric figures. Did you know that there are four types of geometric transformations - reflection, rotation, translation and dilation? Each of these transformations involves a change in the location and/or position of a two-dimensional figure represented on a coordinate axes. We will next take a look at transversals and the special angles they create. A group of our students has been preparing to present their *BuiltBlueMath* websites to the Central Administration and building administrators. We are very excited to be able to share this integrated technology/math project with a truly authentic audience.

The Green Designers have had a successful second trimester studying many challenging topics. The Algebra 1 group recently finished a unit on exponential functions, geometric sequences, growth, decay, and most recently, the Pythagorean theorem. The Integrated math group finished their unit on simultaneous equations. They learned how to solve systems of equations by graphing for a solution, substituting variables and expressions, and solving a system by elimination. Both groups are also going to spend a lot of time using the graphing calculators to graph systems of equations and inputting and analyzing data. As trimester 3 approaches, the Algebra 1 group will be studying how to solve quadratic equations, while the Integrated classes will study congruence and similarity.

Our English Language Learners at the beginning levels in grade 6 are starting work with fractions and working hard on Math's Mate to hone their computation skills. They have recently completed work on prime and composite numbers as well as factors and multiples as they strengthen their knowledge of the multiplication facts and their conceptual knowledge of multiplication.

**Finally, we have a new record for the memorization of digits of Pi.** The record of 335 digits from 2009 has been broken. The new record from this year is 440!  
**Congratulations to Yonara Balcos.**

### PARCC update

By the time you read this, Fuller students in grades 7 and 8 will have completed several sessions of PARCC. So far, the feedback students have given us has been encouraging. They are reporting that while the assessment is challenging, they felt prepared for it. Teachers are asking if they have done their best, and their responses have consistently been, “Yes – I did my best effort.” We are praising students for their hard work and perseverance, as well as the pride they display when they have finished. We are very proud of the work we are accomplishing together as a learning community, and we look forward to seeing the results of PARCC. We will use this data to better understand which standards we need to focus on instructionally in the future.

### Report Cards

Your child will be bringing home their trimester 2 report card on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Along with their report card, they will be given a copy of the Fuller Newsletter (Teaching and Learning Matters). The focus of this edition is, “***How does Fuller personalize learning?***” and we are excited to share with you some examples of what this looks like.

Thank you for all that you do to support our work at Fuller. We are always looking for ways to strengthen our home and school partnership, so if you have any ideas to help us improve, please feel free to contact me or Mike Stevens.

Sincerely,

Sharon