

# Talent Development 2nd Quarter News!

## Duke TIP 4th / 5th Grade Talent Search

Enrollment has begun for the 2012 Duke TIP 4th/5th Grade Talent Search. Students who enrolled last year as a 4th Grader do not need to re-enroll in 5th Grade. To enroll in the talent search, students must:

- Be a 4th or 5th Grader

Have scored at the 95th percentile or higher on an accepted subtest or total composite of a grade-level standardized achievement test, aptitude test, or other approved test. Test scores cannot be more than two years old. Students need to qualify in only ONE of the accepted subtests. (Accepted tests include the North Carolina EOG, CogAT, and ITBS.)

OR

- Have a standard score at or above 125 on the full scale or composite score of an IQ test that is no more than two years old

For more information, please visit [www.tip.duke.edu/node/264](http://www.tip.duke.edu/node/264).

Mrs. Tedone can provide the School ID number for applicable candidates.

## Math Fair Coming Soon!

The Davidson Elementary 2011-2012 Math Fair is quickly approaching!

Projects are due January 30th. Judging will take place January 31st.

The Math Fair open to all 3rd—5th Graders, but is required for all TD-identified students in 3rd, 4th, or 5th Grade.

Access a parent letter, general information, and topic ideas on our wiki: <http://destd.cmswiki.wikispaces.net/Math+Fair>



### Inside this issue

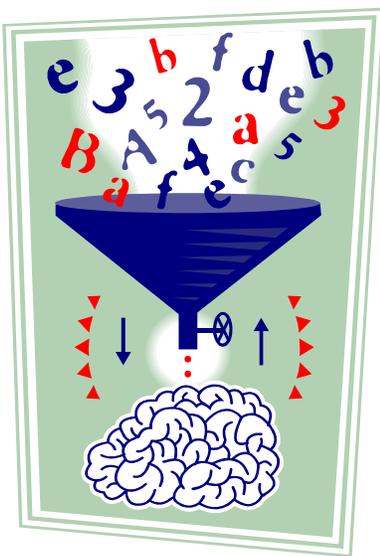
5th Grade News .....	2
4th Grade News .....	2
3rd Grade News .....	2
2nd Grade News .....	3
Spelling Bee Buzz .....	3



### Math Olympiad Puzzler

Dr. Nivens has 4 cages of hamsters. The second cage has half as many hamsters as the first. The third cage has half as many hamsters as the second. The fourth cage has half as many hamsters as the third. What is the smallest number of hamsters Dr. Nivens can have?

*Once you have solved the puzzle, turn to page 3 to check your answer!*



## 5th Grade News

There have been many exciting activities, lessons, and projects occurring in our 5th Grade Literacy Enrichment, which occurs during “Flex” time. Students have researched natural disasters, with some students debating which is the most devastating. Some students are participating in the 2012 Siemens “We Can Change the World” challenge, and others are enjoying an in-depth novel study of The View from Saturday.

Students in all Math enrichment groups have been practicing their problem-solving skills and strategies with the four-step problem-solving method. Students have participated in the first three Math Olympiad challenges, with two remaining. Our 5th Graders are doing a great job representing Davidson in these challenges—keep up the hard work!

## 4th Grade News

Fourth Graders have been hard at work! Our focus literacy skills have included inferences/drawing conclusions, finding evidence in text to justify answers, and test-taking skills using both narrative and nonfiction texts. Students are currently studying advanced vocabulary and analogies using the WordMasters competition program.

Math Olympiad and problem-solving skills have been our focus areas for Math Enrichment. Students continue to study and apply the four-step method of problem solving, and various problem-solving strategies such as work backwards or draw a diagram. Students have taken three Math Olympiad challenges so far—ask your child how they have been doing!

## 3rd Grade News

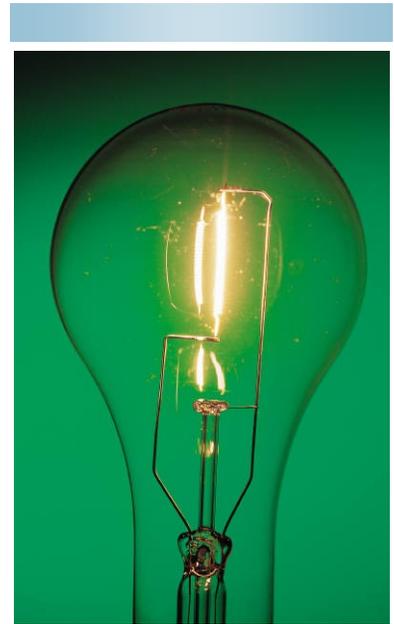
3rd Grade TD students have been working on various fiction and nonfiction literature studies with an emphasis on inferences, vocabulary, making connections, summarizing, and in-depth discussion. Some third graders have begun vocabulary and analogy study as part of the WordMasters Challenge.

Some of our 3rd Grade Math classes are exploring area and perimeter, incorporating real world application through enrichment activities. Others are solving algebraic equations using the Hands-On Equations system. Students are practicing problem-solving strategies for tackling difficult problems with mixed skill application, and analyzing work to discover strengths and weaknesses. We are working on making sure that all students are reading and working carefully as our state testing approaches in May!

## 2nd Grade News

Second grade literacy students have been busy working on a novel study using the book Frindle by Andrew Clements. Lessons have included a focus on vocabulary, interpreting and inferring meaning, and descriptive writing.

Second grade math groups have been learning and applying math strategies that can be used to solve difficult problems. Students are practicing using problems from The Continental Mathematics League, a challenging collection of math problems designed to improve both mathematical and reading skills. Ask your second grader what math strategies they have been working on!



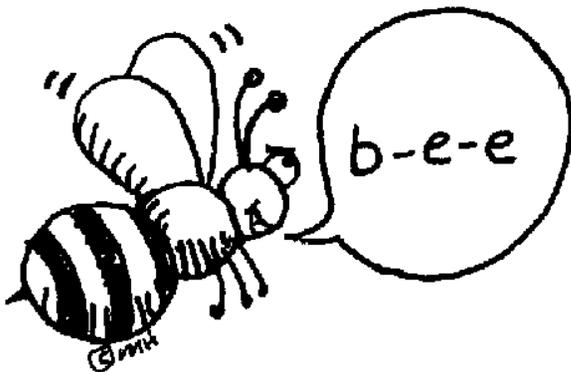
---

*“Education is more than filling a child with facts. It starts with posing questions.”  
- D.T. Max*

---

## Spelling Bee Buzz!

The Davidson Elementary Spelling Bee was full of excitement this year! All participants did an excellent job, but the final showdown came down to fourth grader Cassidy Frye and third grader Amaya Hanley. After round after round of intense competition, Amaya emerged as the victor. Congratulations to our winner and all participants!



## Solution to Math Olympiad Puzzler !

*Answer: 15*

*STRATEGY USED: Work Backwards!*

To have the smallest number of hamsters, Dr. Nivens must have only one hamster in the fourth cage (we assume all hamsters are whole). If there is one in the fourth cage, there are two in the third, four in the second, and eight in the first. The smallest number of hamsters Dr. Nivens can have is  $8+4+2+1$ , or **15**.