

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Researchers have found that the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is necessary for students to attain higher-order math skills. A lack of math fact retrieval can impede participation in math class discussions, successful mathematics problem-solving, and even the development of everyday life skills.

Your child has been participating in Fast Facts Fridays this year at Thomas Elementary. Every Friday after morning announcements, students take a one minute basic math facts quiz, appropriate in skill and number of facts for their grade level. This quiz is not for a recorded grade. Our current goal is for each class to have 80% or more of the students make an 80% or better on the quiz. Classes that meet our goal are recognized on the Fast Facts Friday hall display, reported on Monday morning announcements, and get to have their 'sparkly' displayed in their classroom during the week. We plan to change our goal during the second semester.

Our ultimate goal is for each Thomas Tiger to become fluent in recalling his/her math facts. Many students will need daily practice in order to achieve this goal. Home-based practice makes a big difference. In other words, we need your help!

We suggest that each student practice math facts daily until they develop rapid, effortless, and errorless recall. If your child is not yet fluent, we suggest a daily 10 minutes practice until the fluency goal is met. Here are some suggestions on how your child can practice at home:

- Use flashcards: these can be done with a parent, sibling, or independently. Have 'flash-offs' with a parent or sibling. Children really enjoy challenging their parents!
- Practice facts by accessing the Big Brainz website.
- Complete practice quizzes available on the Thomas website (please do not return these to school); flash cards of missed facts could be made on index cards, construction paper, etc. for specific practice. Set a timer so your child can monitor the time.
- Orally answer fact drills given by parents or older siblings (for example, while in the car ask your child 'what is  $4 \times 3$ ,  $9 + 8$ ,  $14 - 7$ , etc.?). More activity suggestions are available on our school website.

Thank you for your support! Together we can help your Thomas Tiger achieve the goal of fact fluency which will make a positive impact on your child's math achievement. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sroberson@lcisd.org](mailto:sroberson@lcisd.org) or your child's math teacher.

Sincerely,

Sharon Roberson  
Cora Thomas Math Facilitator

Vicki Stevenson  
Principal

Jill Halligan  
Assistant Principal