

STRAIGHT talk

Published Quarterly for Parents of Kumon Students



PROGRAM COMPLETERS vary, but all share in ACHIEVEMENT

Kumon Program Completers vary around North America. Some graduates are siblings, others live thousands of miles away from another graduate. These students are truly unique in their abilities, accomplishments and reasons for attending Kumon, but all agree that completing the program has taught them academic and life skills that are essential to success.

Through their Kumon experiences, program completers develop the ability to set higher goals, demonstrating the determination and perseverance to reach them. They have supportive and inspiring parents or family members who work

with them towards program completion. The skills they learned in Kumon have helped some excel in advanced courses, get into prestigious schools or become respected contributors to academic clubs. Others have been able to progress through high school with less stress and more time for extra-curricular activities.

The following Kumon Math Completers from across North America each have their own personal story, but all share in the achievement of reaching Level 0 or beyond.

PROGRAM COMPLETION: A FAMILY AFFAIR



In St. Louis, Missouri, the Tomatsu family turned program completion into a family affair.

Saori, 11, graduated the program in March while sister Shiori, 13, and brother Shunsuke, 14, achieved the feat this summer at Dr. Dan Kimura's Ladue Center.

The siblings each have been enrolled in Kumon since preschool and set a goal to

complete the math program as a team.

Their Kumon Instructor, Dr. Dan Kimura, said the Tomatsu children's accomplishment is rare but attainable with dedication.

"Three completers from the same family in the same year is unique," he said. "However, when you have such a committed group of young people who understand the value of daily study and dedicate themselves to achieving a goal, anything is possible."

Saori, Shiori and Shansuke all attribute their success to a supportive family environment.

"Support is very important," said

Shunsuke, who entered high school this year. "I accomplished my goal by working together with my sisters. Having a family to help was fun and it helped me learn better."

Shiori agrees and encourages Kumon students to stick with the program, especially during challenging times. "The students who complete the program will be able to understand the concepts very well so that in school it won't be hard for them," she commented.

In addition to Kumon, the Tomatsu siblings are actively involved in the arts and athletics. Shunsuke participates in a percussion ensemble and baseball while Saori and Shiori are tennis players who also enjoy playing the violin and flute.

THOUGHTS BY TORU KUMON

We aim to nurture healthy, able, and competent people by developing their learning ability and inspiring them to continue to develop themselves.



PROGRAM COMPLETION COMES IN PAIRS

In Poway, California, Sansar and Sara Yogi loved learning, but it took perseverance and determination to graduate from both the math and reading programs. Sara finished at age 12, and Sansar made Kumon history at age 9, as the youngest program completer in North America.

"It is a great achievement for a young child to have the skill, capability and dedication to achieve this goal, and to do so takes great effort," said Hideki Kusuzawa, president of Kumon North America. "Every child can achieve their

full potential through independent learning like Sansar."

The brother and sister credit their supportive family and Kumon Instructor, Saeko Jalbuna of the Poway Center in California, for helping them achieve their ambitious goals. This year, both students will take honors classes, and hope to one day return to Kumon as assistants.

"I really want to see more students graduate from Kumon. When I am old enough to work, I hope I can return as a grader and encourage students to finish

the program, just like the graders here inspired me," said Sara.

Sara aspires to be a pediatric surgeon, while her brother Sansar hopes to one day become a college math professor or work as an engineer for NASA.

Sansar leaves the Kumon program with words of encouragement for current and future Kumon students, "Even though it may be hard to finish the program, the benefits of completing the program will greatly help you in school."

PROGRAM COMPLETION: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



In Mercer Island, Washington, Ashley Bobman, 15, comes from a family of program completers. Her older brother, Jake, 21, finished the program in nine years and her sister, Alyssa, 19, completed in 11 years. Ashley is on track to graduate in December and will officially be the family's youngest completer. In addition to Kumon, Ashley is an honors student, plays the clarinet and saxophone in her school band, sings in choir, volunteers with numerous

organizations including with Volunteer Outreach in Communities Everywhere (VOICE), and oh, sleeps.

Ashley says doing Kumon helps her set and exceed her goals. As a VOICE volunteer this past summer she was only required to work on eight projects, yet she supported 18. Kumon also improved her confidence. "When you're excelling in one subject, you feel more confident in other areas of your life," says Ashley.

Kumon Instructor, Queenie Louie of Kumon Mercer Island, is very proud of all three Bobman siblings. "It's an honor to see these children grow up and develop strong academic and life skills," said Ms. Louie. "Mr. and Mrs. Bobman are extremely supportive. They continually offer praise and encouragement to their children." Mr. Bobman believes Kumon, and

Queenie, are central to his children's success. "Positive feedback and support helps develop a child's confidence and independence," said Mr. Bobman. "All three of my children have gained perseverance and self-reliance through Kumon."

Ashley hopes to attend either the University of Southern California or University of Washington, the schools of her older siblings. Jake, a National Merit Scholar and Washington State Scholar, earned a full scholarship to the University of Washington's Honors program, and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he is pursuing two Bachelors Degrees in Mathematics and Biochemistry. Alyssa, a sophomore at USC majoring in Gerontology, was the recipient of a USC Director's Scholarship, and continues her community service in support of the elderly.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO COMPLETE



Program completion is a tremendous achievement for any student who joins the Kumon Program. But, as William Huang, student of the Kumon of Allen-East Center in Texas demonstrates, reaching this goal can help children strive to achieve more on their own.

William completed the Math program just as he began his senior year of high school and set his sights on applying for college.

As a result of completing the Math program, William was able to complete every high school math requirement, which allowed him to study math independently and take multiple Advanced Placement courses, including AP Physics, History, and English. William credits completing both the Math and Reading Program with helping him manage multiple advanced classes and keeping him motivated.

“Going through the Kumon program has helped me to strive to achieve more on my own and has really helped me manage my time,” said Huang.

Kumon of Allen-West director and William’s Instructor, Alice Wang, recognizes his perseverance and ability to overcome frustration as the primary

motivators for completing the math program before his senior year.

“William is a very dedicated student and would never give up and look at the solutions manual,” said Wang. “He wanted to know how to approach the problem. This gave him the opportunity

to learn to apply those skills to different problems.”

William would like to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and major in electrical engineering and minor in computer science.

PROGRAM COMPLETER, ROLE MODEL



Dedication and perseverance is an important element to completing the Kumon program, as we’ve seen from Joseph Hilyard of the East Brunswick Kumon Center in New Jersey. Not only has the program helped him excel in school,

but it has shown him the value of these traits.

Joe completed the Math Program last April after ten years of Kumon study. Unlike other program completers he didn’t start out at Kumon with a passion for math.

“I was actually really bad at math and that’s why my parents enrolled me in Kumon,” said Joe of his parents who are both engineers.

Joe’s Kumon Instructor, Helen Kim, constantly encouraged him and sometimes challenged him to complete the program. Now a senior, his Kumon study has helped

him excel at the prestigious Saint Joseph High School. Joe’s goal is to get into a good college and double major in finance/economics and mathematics.

“Even though the program is really annoying at times, it has truly helped me succeed both in and out of school,” Joe said.

Joe is also a role model for his little brother who is working through Level L and his little sister Mariella who is in the Reading Program.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS, COMPLETER ANSWERS



In Canada, Anthony Le of the Vaughan-Maple Kumon Centre began Kumon looking for a challenge beyond the four walls of the classroom, and what he found were opportunities and achievements like no other.

From beating Hall-of-Fame Running Back Mike “Pinball” Clemons in a math challenge in 2005, to helping Glen Shields Public School finish first out of 452 schools across Canada in the Canadian National Mathematics League Contest, having been a part of the Kumon program helped Anthony enjoy some tremendous life experiences – most recently becoming Kumon Canada’s youngest program completer at age 13.

“Completing the Kumon program has allowed me to enjoy many unique experiences,” says Le. “Not only have I improved my skills, but I’m feeling confident and excited to tackle my next challenge.”

Kumon of Vaughan-Maple Instructor Kim Phull sites Anthony’s desire to face challenges head-on as the key to his success.

“Anthony’s tenacity is inspiring,” says Phull. “Watching him strive to complete the program was an incredible experience and highlighted the reason I became an Instructor – to help each child achieve their full potential.”

Anthony is currently continuing his study at Kumon by tackling Level X worksheets and working hard in the gifted program at Glen Shields Public School.

Students from across North America continue to inspire Instructors, parents and the community with their tenacity, determination and limitless potential. Graduates demonstrate that the only boundaries are the ones they place on themselves.

Are you Kumon’s next program completer? How close are you to completing the program? Set up a goal planning meeting with your Instructor to create a timeline and plan for completing the program. Kumon believes all children can reach their full potential, we want you to be our next program completer.



School Grade: K
Starting Level: Math 3A
Reading 5A
Present Level: Math E
Reading CI
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Matthew



School Grade: 4th
Starting Level: Math 4A
Present Level: Math G
(ASHR Math)

Ritvik



School Grade: 6th
Starting Level: Math 2A
Present Level: Math G
(ASHR Math & G by 5 Math)

Elizabeth



School Grade: K
Starting Level: Math 4A
Present Level: Math B
(ASHR Math)

Christian

THE FACES OF KUMON



School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level: Math 7A
Present Level: Math D
(ASHR Math)

Ashley



School Grade: PK
Starting Level: Math 7A
Reading 7A
Present Level: Math 3A
Reading 2A
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Ruemon



School Grade: 6th
Starting Level: Math A
Present Level: Math G
(ASHR Math)

Alex



School Grade: 5th
Starting Level: Math 3A
Reading 2A
Present Level: Math G
Reading E1
(ASHR Math & Reading and G by 5 Math)

Alina



School Grade: K
Starting Level: Math 7A
Reading 7A
Present Level: Math 2A
Reading BII
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Aditi



School Grade: 4th
Starting Level: Math 4A
Present Level: Math H
(ASHR Math)

Kevin



School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level: Math 3A
Reading 2A
Present Level: Math E
Reading E1
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Dora



School Grade: 1st
Starting Level: Math 4A
Present Level: Math C
(ASHR Math)

Nishita



School Grade: 4th
Starting Level: Math 2A
Reading 2A
Present Level: Math I
Reading J
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Achyut



School Grade: 4th
Starting Level: Math 7A
Reading 7A
Present Level: Math G
Reading H
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Karan



School Grade: 6th
Starting Level: Math B
Present Level: Math G
(ASHR Math)

Rachel



School Grade: 5th
Starting Level: Math A
Reading 2A
Present Level: Math F
Reading E1
(ASHR Math & Reading)

Aditya



School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level: Math A
Present Level: Math D
(ASHR Math)

Ajitesh

Interested

in having your child featured?

Please talk to your Kumon Instructor for the form as well as submission details.

ALL submissions to The Faces of Kumon must include a completed Straighttalk Student Submission Form and a digital format image (JPG). The digital format image must be sent to Straighttalk@kumon.com. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please note that all submissions are not guaranteed publication.

STRAIGHTtalk
Published Quarterly for Parents of Kumon Students

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Your opinions are very important to us, and we want to hear them.

E-mail your feedback and comments to straighttalk@kumon.com