



High Expectations

A Newsletter for Priddy Parents and Friends

Vol. 18 No. 6

December 2015

Calendar

December 23-January 3
Priddy Closed

MLK Day
January 18
Priddy Open

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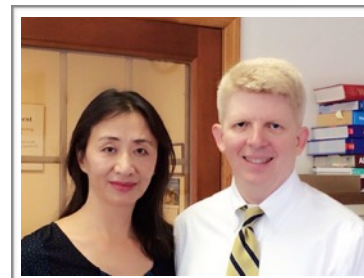
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Dear Students and Parents,

With the holiday season here, we know many of you are busy with holiday celebrations and shopping. However busy we may be, though, we must be careful not to let ourselves lose sight of the goals we have set for ourselves and finish the year strong.



Dr. Fangjie Liu and Mr. Michael Priddy

Setting goals has been a big part of Dean Ah Now's life, a student at Priddy since 2010. In our feature profile this month, staff member Carly Susser explores Dean's inspirational journey in his math education. His goals, discipline, and successes, are a reminder to us all the rewards of hard work and disciplined effort.

In keeping with tradition, packets will be prepared so that we can keep the **learning momentum** going during the break. My best advice is to pace yourself by doing only what is assigned each day. Coming back to practice everyday is an optimal way to learn: it's easier, takes less time, and you make faster progress. What could be better than that!

Finally, we want to commend you, our students and parents, for achievements and sacrifices that you have made over the past year. Seeing and being a part of your children's growth and development is one of the greatest rewards in this life, and one that we don't take for granted. On behalf of everyone here at Priddy Learning Academy, thank you for your continued support and loyalty towards the program, without which, we would not exist.

May you enjoy the holidays, and may the New Year bring you peace, prosperity, and good health!

Sincerely,

Michael and Fangjie
Co-Directors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Semester Renewal

Semester renewal information will be available the first half of January. The Spring semester will run from February 3 to June 22. Please check your mailboxes in January.

Parent Conferences

If you haven't already, please call our office to schedule a time to discuss your child's progress.

Fun with Numbers

Remember our three student riddles from **Audit** and **Ayaana Vinayak**, and **Yuvi Chaudary**?
Check your answers on page 4!

Yearbook Committee

We are currently looking for student volunteers to help out with the yearbook. Please let us know if you're interested in collaborating! Contact Carly.Susser@priddylearning.com.

Holiday Closing

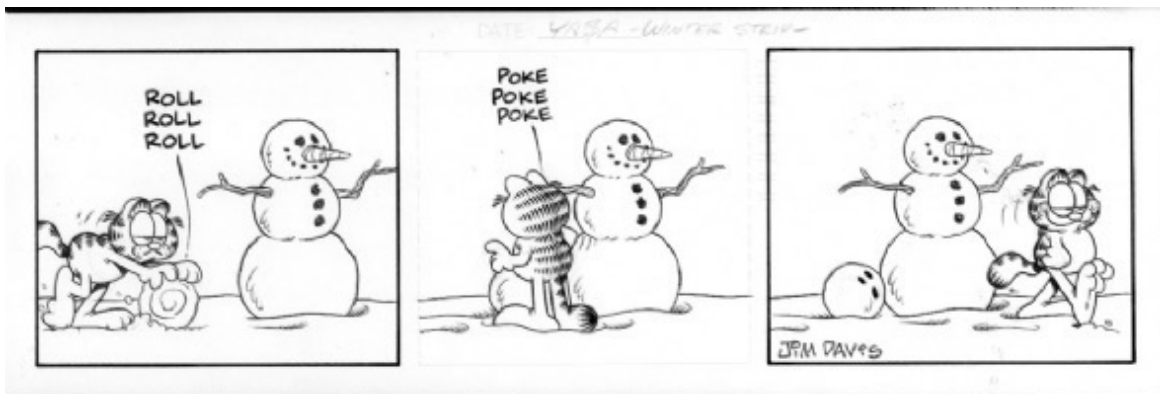
For the Christmas and New Year break, we will close on December 23 and re-open on January 4. We will assign homework packets during these breaks. See Priddy Learning Academy's calendar at <http://priddylearning.com/calendar>. You can also see our Facebook page for reminders.

20th Anniversary and Awards Ceremony

In Spring 2016, Priddy Learning Academy will hold an awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of our students. Awards will be given in several categories including "Most Progress," "Homework Completion," "Best Effort," and more. Writing students will have the opportunity to read their pieces.

Like us on Facebook!

When you like our Facebook page, you'll receive updates and relevant information we think you'll enjoy, such as an articles from the *New York Times* and *Oxford Journals* about [the importance of physical books at home](#), and [scholarly culture and academic performance](#).



Feature Profile: The Ah Now Family

Dean Ah Now, 13, relishes in solving tough math problems and doesn't back down easily. His mother, Mrs. Lee, saw his potential in pre-kindergarten. "He was outside playing basketball with his friends," she says, "keeping track of the scores in his head." For enrichment, she began doing workbooks with him, until she had her second child, Dylan.

Unable to give Dean the same attention, she enrolled him in the Priddy math program.

"He was in third grade, doing long division, says Mrs. Lee. "He needed to be taught from a higher level." Mr. Priddy, founding director of Priddy Learning Academy, worked with him twice a week and assigned daily homework. By the end of third grade, Dean was a more focused, attentive student, who showed responsibility for his schoolwork.

In 6th grade, Dean set a goal: to attend the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. He had attended the junior camp as a 4th and 5th grader, and had also competed in math contests, but this was his biggest academic challenge yet. Dean worked closely with Dr. Liu (known to her students as Fangjie), delving into the complex topics that comprise the SCAT. He scored high, was accepted to CTY, and was invited to the CTY Grand Ceremony, an honor based on test scores that fall in the top 10%.

Now in 8th grade at Millburn Middle School, Dean knows what needs to be done and does it. He most recently made the Millburn Middle

School (MMS) team to compete in Mathcounts, a prestigious series of math contests. The team will represent MMS in local, state, and national competitions.

The academic discipline instilled in him at PLA has paved a pathway of opportunities for Dean to explore as he continues to discover

himself as a student. "I know math is important," Dean says. "It will help me get into college and beyond."

An ambitious, bright young man, Dean knows the meaning of hard work. He's been playing baseball and piano since he was six years old. While committed to sports and music, the focus of his life is academics. How has he been able to do it? "The adaptability of the Priddy program to Dean's needs has allowed Dean to blossom," says Mrs. Lee. "It works for us."

There is no doubt Dean wants to succeed.

In an environment of his peers, whether at a competition, at PLA, in school, or at CTY, Dean sees where he is and where he wants to be. In baseball, Dean plays outfield. Not only does outfield require great arm strength, but also a keen eye—one that plays for the win. Watchful and strategic, Dean is able to establish and meet his goals. A parent's role may be to kindle the flame of learning, but once it's lit, it burns for more. "I don't think we'd be where we are today without Priddy Learning Academy," says Mrs. Lee.

Carly Susser is the Communications Assistant and Writing Coach at Priddy Learning Academy. To share your story, e-mail carly.susser@priddylearning.com



Dean Ah Now and Lily Lee at the CTY Grand Ceremony
October 18, 2015

Writing

Workshops

Essays in the Making. Taught by Ms. Carly Susser. *Essay (v):* to try; attempt. The objective of this class is to ignite and nurture the love of writing. The core of the curriculum is the student's work. Each student will produce a final piece to share with family and friends on the last day of class. Gain independence in the writing process. Gain confidence in a life-long practice. Please bring a notebook.

Dr. James McBride, veteran writing teacher, is available for private and small group tutorials on Sunday. He specializes in the college essay and has sat on admissions committees. He has taught at several universities including Johns Hopkins University, San Francisco, and Puget Sound.



Language

Chinese Class

Now accepting enrollment for January. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 PM; Saturday at 11:00 AM.

Japanese Class

This class will introduce the basic levels of conversation and written language. Classes begin January. Please contact us for more information.



Fun with Numbers

Check your answers below!

So you think you're good at math? Complete the sequence: 1=3, 2=3, 3=5, 4=4, 5=4, 6=3, 7=5, 8=5, 9=4, 10=3, 11=?, 12=?

Submitted by Yuvi Chaudhary

Answer: 11=6, 12=6. There are six letters in each *eleven* and *twelve*.

A person went on vacation on Friday and was supposed to come back in two days, but instead came back on Friday. How is this possible?

Submitted by Ayaana Vinayak

Answer: He has a horse named Friday.

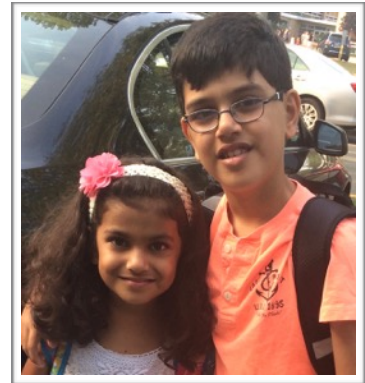
There were 20 people on a ship. Suddenly the ship crashed. 24 heads popped up. How is this possible?

Submitted by Audit Vinayak

Answer: There were twenty foreheads.



Yuvi Chaudhary



Ayaana and Audit Vinayak

Grammar Lesson

Affect vs. Effect

When should I use *affect*?

Affect with an *a* means "to influence," as in, "The arrows affected Aardvark," or "The rain affected Amy's hairdo." Affect can also mean, roughly, "to act in a way that you don't feel," as in, "She affected an air of superiority."

When should I use *effect*?

Effect with an *e* has a lot of subtle meanings as a noun, but to me the meaning "a result" seems to be at the core of all the definitions. For example, you can say, "The effect was eye-popping," or "The sound effects were amazing," or "The rain had no effect on Amy's hairdo."

Quick and Dirty Tips, 'Affect Versus Effect'. N.p., 2015. Web. 2 Dec. 2015.

Would YOU like to submit a math puzzle, grammar question, or study tip? E-mail carly.susser@priddylearning.com !

Special Winter Word Scramble!



1. Nroht loPe _____
2. wonsfekla _____
3. wosnma _____
4. dinreggreab _____
5. lisrev llebs _____
6. wosn yad _____!
7. hglesi dire _____

