



High Expectations

A Newsletter for Priddy Parents and Friends

Vol. 19 No. 1

January 2016

Calendar

January 18
MLK Day
Priddy Open

February 15-20
Millburn Mid-Winter Break
Priddy Closed

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Welcome to 2016 at Priddy Learning Academy! We are excited to have everyone back, and to see the high completion of homework packets. As I wrote in last month's newsletter, keeping the learning momentum going is key to your long term achievements.

Learning momentum is something that Carolina and Matthew Spear know about. Having been enrolled in the programs since July 2012, they have experienced the benefits, the discipline, and sometimes, the challenges, of keeping up with their Priddy assignments. Please enjoy reading our feature profile on "[Making Priddy Part of the Family, Feature Profile: The Spear Family](#)" on page 3.

Besides this being a new year, 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Priddy Learning Academy. While a lot has changed in the world in the last 20 years, the fundamentals of our teaching have not. From day one, our Priddy method of doing a little each day over a sustained period of time is far more effective and efficient than doing hours of work in one sitting once or twice per week. The frequency of performing steady, daily practice is key to optimizing your full learning potential in any endeavor you set out to achieve.

I'd like to invite you to join our **Mandarin Chinese class**. We offer classes for both adults and students of all ages. We have two wonderful teachers, [Mrs. Diana Danitz](#) and [Mrs. Sophia Yang](#), who specialize in making learning the language fun and exciting. Please contact us if you are interested.

At the end of January, this semester will be coming to a close. Please check your mailboxes for semester renewal information.

Let us use this year to reaffirm our commitment to be the best that we can be, and to live life to its fullest.

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.

Mandarin Chinese Class

Join our **Mandarin Chinese classes**, for adults and students of all ages. Our two wonderful teachers, [Mrs. Diana Danitz](#) and [Mrs. Sophia Yang](#), specialize in making learning the language fun and exciting. Please contact us if you are interested. See page 4 for more information.

Parent Conferences

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

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.

Calendar


We will be open on January 18, Martin Luther King Day. 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

This spring, 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!

Like our Facebook page to receive updates and relevant information we think you'll enjoy! This month, read about [Mr. Priddy's reflections on Martin Luther King's speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."](#)



Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Making Priddy Part of the Family

Feature Profile: The Spear Family

For the past four years, Priddy Learning Academy has been a constant in the Spears' lives. "I feel like it's a second home," says Mrs. Spear, mother of three. "The years go by, it doesn't change. It's like visiting an aunt or uncle. Math is just something you do when you visit." Mrs. Spear's eldest daughter, Carolina, enrolled in the Priddy math program in second grade because her basic skills were not what Mr. and Mrs. Spear had expected. "She wasn't having any fun," says Mrs. Spear. A friend referred her to Priddy, where Mrs. Spear noticed the approach was "traditional, how we used to learn math," through memorization and repetition. Mrs. Spear's son, Matthew, then in first grade, also enrolled.

Carolina soon became much more secure with basic arithmetic. She demonstrated quick recall of the basic facts, the hallmark of a solid foundation. "Memorization is not a substitute, but a basis, for more advanced learning," says Mr. Priddy, founding director of Priddy Learning Academy. "The ability to instantly recall basic concepts allows us to learn more complex ideas, as in problem solving."

"At Priddy, you don't move on until you truly master a step," says Mrs. Spear. Carolina was pre- and post-tested, then tested periodically while she was on a new level, just to assure her foundation was still strong. This is Priddy protocol.

Problem solving, like reading, requires abstract thinking. To think abstractly, one must have material to abstract. Pablo Picasso studied

classical painting before he could trailblaze the cubist path. He mastered the fundamentals of drawing before he could have any fun bending them. As in art, before we can get creative with numbers, we have to understand their properties, what they represent.

Carolina, now in 6th grade, loves art and is enthusiastic to learn and create. Her main after-school activity is tennis, which she practices daily. Priddy helps her see that through hard work, effort, and tenacity, you can succeed. "I look at it as insurance," says Mrs. Spear. "Priddy is a critical part of learning, and I'm not willing to take a gamble on that."

With Priddy homework, there's always something to do. The student is never bored. There are always problems they can practice, because Priddy assigns them daily. It helps the student see that

the effort you put affects the results you receive. "Anything good takes hard work," says Mrs. Spear.

Mrs. Spear plans to enroll her youngest daughter, Gabriella, who is four years old and shows a passion for singing and dance. As for Matthew, his favorite school subjects are science and math. No matter what the child's interests, Priddy helps instill the discipline of daily practice. Comfort and security with basic facts is essential in assuring academic progress. This security, along with the confidence it breeds, is a lifelong gift.

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

"I look at it as insurance," says Mrs. Spear.



Gabriella, Matthew, and Carolina Spear

Writing

Essays in the Making. 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. Gain independence in the writing process. Gain confidence in a life-long practice. Taught by Ms. Carly Susser.

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!

Phone a Friend

It's time to phone a friend for a little math fun. Get your calculator (or try it by hand!)

(Note: Ignore your area code and use only your seven digit phone number)

- 1) What are the first 3 digits of your phone number? (do NOT include the area code)
- 2) Multiply by 80
- 3) Add 1
- 4) Multiply by 250
- 5) Add in the last four digits of phone number
- 6) Add in the last four digits of phone number again
- 7) Subtract 250
- 8) Divide by 2

Is the result your phone number?

"Puzzling Numbers Games." *Kids Pages*. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

Study Tip

Plan Your Study Week Like a Work Week

From a time-management perspective, your study week should be planned like a work week for which you are paid wages. In most occupational situations, you usually go to work each day at a certain hour and leave to go home at a specified time. If you don't do this, you will not be paid and could lose your job.

The same principle also applies to study. Particularly if you are taking a full load of courses, you should set aside sufficient time each day for study. This will take self-discipline on your part because, unlike most job supervisors who supervise your activities, your instructors will not manage your study behavior.

Semones, James K.. *Effective Study Skills*. Orlando: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1991.

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

Winter Word Search



Boots
Coat
Freezing
Gloves
Hat
Ice
Ice Fishing

Ice Skating
Mittens
Scarf
Skiing
Sledding
Snow
Snow Ball

Snow Ball Fight
Snow Flake
Snowboarding
Snowman
Toboggan
Winter

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