Miss Wiltjer's Newsletter

Pre-Algebra/Algebra I

End of October, 2012

THIS MONTH

In class this month, your student learned how to find the probability of an event occurring both theoretically and experimentally. Students spent time looking at different types of random events (such as independent and dependent events) and different ways to calculate possibilities.

Students were introduced to new terms like permutations, combinations, and factorials.

In addition, students were asked to build tree diagrams, make inferences based on limited information, and look at the way probability exists in the world around us.

Students worked on an especially difficult problem-solving problem in which they examined a classic probability problem known as either the Prisoner's Problem (the version we looked at in class) or the Monty Hall problem. This problem is a classically counter-intuitive problem which several students correctly recognized a proper solution to and were able to explain their reasoning to the class.

NEW THIS QUARTER

This quarter, students are asked to get their quizzes and tests signed by you after they are graded. Students who earned a D or an F **must** get your signature on a quiz or a test. Students with an A, B, or C, may elect to do so. All students earn 2 bonus points towards their overall grade when they bring back a signed quiz or test within 1 week of receiving it from me. If a student does not return their signed quiz or test within 1 week, I will be contacting parents by e-mail to alert them to the problem.

This new procedure began with the return of the first quiz from Chapter 9 and will continue throughout the school year.

NEXT MONTH

In November, students will start (and finish) Chapter 10 in the Pre-Algebra book. They will be solving equations of increasing difficulty (starting with two-step equations and building up to systems of equations). Most students already have a fundamental understanding of the basic skills required to solve an equation, so this chapter may feel easier for those students.

QUESTION YOUR STUDENT

Checking to see if your student understands key points is important. Here are some questions that will help you verify if they do:

- ◎ What does probability measure?
- ◎ What does a probability of 0 mean?
- ◎ What is a factorial?
- ◎ How can you tell if two events are independent?
- ◎ What is an example of an outcome for the event of rolling an even number on a 20-sided die?

WISH TO DONATE?

I am in **great need** of items on this list:

- Fine-tipped Expo/Dry-Erase markers

- Rolls of Butcher Paper

- Colored markers (Crayola) – specifically DARK colors