

Dear Parents,

Over the next few months we are learning the multiplication facts. Every other week I will send you some problems I want you to help your child master. Have your child master these facts (and these only), so that your child will know these facts . How you do this is up to you.

We will be working on multiplication problem solving (with word problems) in class, but will need your help at home to build fluency with multiplication facts so they are not counting on their fingers (note: it should not take more than 2-3 seconds to think about the answer to the problem). We will also be working with these facts using hands-on manipulatives to help create a picture of the facts they are memorizing. Please drill them several times a day (this can be done on car rides on the way to practice etc). By working with your child at home, this can save classroom time for problem solving with multiplication.

### Week 1's Facts: Learn the Squares

$2 \times 2 = 4$	$6 \times 6 = 36$
$3 \times 3 = 9$	$7 \times 7 = 49$
$4 \times 4 = 16$	$8 \times 8 = 64$
$5 \times 5 = 25$	$9 \times 9 = 81$

Why squares first? The squares are easiest to learn. This encourages students because it builds confidence. It is important to learn these multiplication facts and I really appreciate your cooperation in advance. Keep this on your fridge for easy access.

Thank you,

## 3rd Grade Teachers

\*Note that we have eliminated  $0 \times a$ , because the answer is always zero. Nothing to memorize.

Ex:  $a \times 0 = 0$

\*Note that we have eliminated  $1 \times a$ , because multiplication by one does not change anything and yields that number. Nothing to memorize. (same thing with multiplying with 10, but add a zero)

Ex:  $1 \times a = a$