

June 2020

Dear St. Luke's Parent/Guardian,

As part of our math curriculum in the upper school, we continue to work with an Australian based spiraling math review program entitled *Math's Mate* in grades 5-8. This program allows our students to review both past and current arithmetic, geometric, and algebraic concepts on a weekly basis. It has been a tremendous tool in reinforcing prior material that is essentially a prerequisite for future success in math, while moving ahead with our current curriculum.

Students are required to complete 1 sheet (32 or 33 questions) per week, and are asked not to move ahead at a faster pace. The reason we move at this set pace is so that students are consistently revisiting these topics on a weekly basis, and therefore are reducing the chance of encountering a lapse in memory as to how to proceed with a particular solution method or algorithm. Therefore, if they complete all of the sheets in the beginning of the summer, or wait until the end of the summer to work on the sheets, the purpose of the program is defeated. Each *Math's Mate* book is divided into 4 terms of 8 sheets per term (32 in total). All students have already completed the first 3 terms of their workbook, but still have 8 sheets to work on in term 4.

We are asking for your support this summer by encouraging your child to continue working in his/her *Math's Mate* book on a weekly basis. It is a fantastic way of keeping current with all those concepts that will be tested once again on the fall ERB's, as well as the ISEE exam. You will have access to the term 4 question sheets, as well as the answer keys through the school website. We would ask that you only share each set of answers with your child after they have completed a particular sheet. Please do not give them the entire answer key packet at the beginning of the summer. Since the answer key does not include explanation/solution methods, you should reinforce the idea of your child returning to school in the fall with questions about the problems they still don't understand. This means that they should return to school in September with their current *Math's Mate* book.

Students of different proficiency levels will be well served by continuing to work in the *Math's Mate* book. Those students who are struggling in math will have an opportunity to improve upon their basic skills (side 1 questions), while those students who have shown a solid aptitude in math will be able to maintain their skills while being challenged by some of the more thought-provoking logic problems (side 2 questions). Graduating 8th grade students will also benefit by being better prepared for their freshman level math course, and could even introduce themselves to their new teacher by initiating a conversation about the *Math's Mate* program that they used over the summer.

We thank you in advance for the guided support of your children as they continue to utilize the *Math's Mate* program throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Travaglione