

Peter Remington's

## Back to School : Preparation More than just Supplies

With summer flying by, students and parents are gearing up for school. As parents prepare their children with new shoes, the latest fashion and class supplies often a vital resource for middle schooler success is overlooked during preparation—tutors.

Tutors are often seen by parents as fixers of academic problems only if they occur. Only a few proactive parents will readily communicate they strategically choose tutors as preventive maintenance for their children's mediocrity or failure.

Heading into the new year, parents need to pull out old report cards review the previous year's grades. **Regardless of subject, students with average or below grades should begin the year with tutors on their success teams**

Parents who understand teaching industry also know that grades, while based on points can be subjective, a "C" for a 6th grader might actually have been an "F". While some teachers may flunk a child who fails to meet state or department standards, others will consider the impressionable age, resulting in the averaged grade on a bell curve, so a C can be justified.

Regardless of grading strategy, for any class a child received a C or below, parents should be considering tutors before the year starts and the best tutor's schedules are full.

For parents with underemployment or

or unemployment, some tutors offer sliding scales or group lessons, which may meet your budget. A few we know even may volunteer until the family is back on its feet and can begin paying.

After a look at report cards, frankly discuss and brainstorm with your child how the "grade" occurred. Honest, unemotional talk over coke and fries or ice cream soda after a family time out can be very fruitful in determining the true root cause of the child's average or below average grade. One mistake parents make in this investigation process is to allow their child to blame the teacher. While we don't doubt bad teachers exist, the real question should be if this response is truthful, how did the child go about solving their perception or problem? Did the child talk to the teacher? Did the child ask for help? Did the child seek help from a successful student friend? Did the child tell the parent? Did the parent respectfully contact the teacher to learn what the teacher observed of their student? In today's busy world, the answer is likely no to all these questions.

Parents must remember that they are training their children for adult life. Children need to understand the truth! They have a responsibility to learn regardless whether or not they like the subject or the teacher. Mastery is hoped for, but "problem-solving" is the most important skill. And now preventive maintenance and problem solving before an issue arises is tutoring.



Parents connected with the latest research into the most successful adults in the world from various fields know that the path to the level of life style a child can achieve as an adult is founded in the early teen years.

Helping a student begin the year right can go a long way towards a child's self-esteem. Psychology 101 would state that **children are generally more motivated to maintain good grades than they are to climb hurdles to improve them.** Regardless of whether or not its their job, don't put the burden on already over-burdened school teachers. Hire a tutor before school starts!

## 2nd Annual Kanji Camps Very Successful

During one weeks in June and two weeks in July, novice and advanced Japanese students met for the 2nd annual Kanji Camp series. Day campers joined native Japanese instructors and volunteers to learn Japanese writing and practice listening and speaking in Japanese. Each academic day ended with Japanese traditional arts and craft projects. Students enjoyed taking home their creations each day. Pictures of some of the students and activities can be found on the website, [www.kanjicamp.info](http://www.kanjicamp.info).

Parents were pleased with their summer

camp investment. Here are a few anonymous quotes from parents:

"This was the best camp we sent our son to. Everyday he came home with high quality crafts that he learned to make himself. And on the first and last day he came home with special Japanese gifts from his instructors. He had a great time and wanted to go back."

"My daughter loved camp. Despite studying Japanese in school, she plans to join the camp's year round after-school club program."

"My had such fun, he wished the camp was longer."

Camp sponsor, Blake Justice commented, "We want parents to know that next years camp will be even bigger and better than before. I've been talking with the director and instructors and can tell you we're talking about redesigning the curriculum into 10 levels based on an upcoming book of one of the new head instructors, so campers who came this year know they will find something new at camp next year. When asked, he said, registration for 2006 camps will begin November-December 2005.

## World Language Community Bulletin Board

*Tired of worrying over your child's foreign language homework because you don't know the language?*

*Why not enjoy a brief exploration of the language through the Community Life and Learning Center in Carmel.*

*The CLLC is home to the Community College system of IvyTech and IUPUI. They offer various languages for study like Chinese, French, Japanese and Spanish.*

*For Example this Fall for the first time at CLLC:*

### Fundamentals of Japanese I

*Description: Begin to learn Japanese for business or social purposes in a non-threatening class for those who want to learn this beautiful language. The class will focus primarily on speaking and understanding the language. You'll also learn about Japanese customs and etiquette.*

**WHERE?**  
IUPUI's Carmel Campus  
Community Life & Learning Center  
515 E. Main Street, across from CHS.

**WHEN?**  
Eight (8) Thursdays,  
September 15-November 3, 2005  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**WHY?**  
*Do business with Japanese.  
Impress your Japanese speaking children.  
Have something in common.  
Help better with homework.  
Prepare for Family Travel to Japan.  
Prepare for Home stays.*

**HOW?**  
*Register for Section: 054C38A00  
Tuition: \$133*

*Visit: <http://www.cln.iupui.edu>*



LET'S GO!

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TO:

***Inside this IBLCI Newsletter***

**"Back to School: Preparation More than Supplies"**

***... a resource parents overlook ...***

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE



Japanese Exploration & Language Programs

- ☉ Honors Japanese Studies Program
- ☉ Individual & Group Tutoring
- ☉ KanjiCamp



English Tutoring & ESL/ESP Programs

- ☉ English for Specific Purposes
- ☉ Individual & Group Tutoring
- ☉ Transition Assistance

Who studies at our programs?

Students who:

- have language goals to progress faster than the curriculum offered at regular school.
- feel lost among their 20-30 classmates in class at school and simply need individual instruction to improve grades language mastery.
- want to play language and culture games among a small study group of friends.
- are looking for a unique educational summer program that offers more creative, adventurous and experiential learning than summer school.
- trying to get enough Japanese for international language honors on their diplomas.
- preparing for college-accredited summer programs abroad for either high school or college.
- adults who need language for specific purposes. (Work/Teaching/etc.)

**Our educational activities combine experiential learning, traditional classroom learning and community opportunities into learning through adventure, travel and cultural immersion to create unforgettable student experience. Our curriculum director creates board games, study supports and practice opportunities with proven results. Just call us to learn more. 1-866-758-3841**