**June 10, 2016**

**Dear students,**

Over the break, I do not want your math skills to slip, but I also do not want to force you do “busy work”. So, I have decided to give you two options, and I believe that you know which option would be best for you to *develop your math mind*. This assignment is not mandatory, but your first assignment next school year will be a quiz on this information (either packet or book).

**1) Complete a packet of basic skills problems that we have learned over the year.**

**How to do this:** I suggest completing about 20 problems a week. This amount is not too much and it will keep these topics fresh on your mind as we go into 7th grade math or Algebra I. Check your answers. If you do not get a problem right, you can look at your notes or watch Khan Academy videos for further explanation. These videos will be posted on www.barraschantz.com.

**Who should do this:** You should choose this option if you have struggled with any of these skills throughout the year and need a little extra practice, or if you would like to be fluent with these skills in order to more easily learn new skills next year.

**2) Read The Number Devil.**

**How to do this:** The Number Devil is “an international best-seller that makes mathematics a thrilling exploration.” In twelve dreams, Robert, a boy who hates math, meets a Number Devil, who leads him to discover the amazing world of numbers: infinite numbers, prime numbers, Fibonacci numbers, numbers that magically appear in triangles, and numbers that expand without. As you dream with him, you are taken further and further into mathematical theory, where ideas eventually take flight, until everyone-from those who fumble over fractions to those who solve complex equations in their heads-winds up marveling at what numbers can do.

After reading the book, write a 1-2 page essay about what you learned in the book and how it has or has not changed your perception of math. I will even accept work written in Portuguese or Spanish, because math is universal and I care more about your mathematical understanding than the language that you express it in. This book is available on Amazon kindle. This will even count as a book for Ms. Jen.

**Who should do this:** Those of you that want to develop a deeper understanding of mathematics, beyond the simple memorization of equations and formulas. This is where math becomes fun (yes, I said that!).

**Materials for 2016-2017 School Year**

**2016-2017 8th Grade Students:** Please remember that you will need a graphing calculator. I prefer that you purchase the Texas Instruments TI-84 Silver Plus Edition. These range from USD$120-150 in the US (Amazon.com), and around R$900-1000 here in Brazil.

**2016-2017 7th Grade Students:** You will need your own calculator for class. It does not need to be graphing unless you want to go ahead and get one now in preparation for next year (Algebra I).

**All Students:** You will need a 40mm binder (fichário) for **only Mathematics**. You will also need a notebook or paper that can be used as a math journal.



***Enjoy your winter break!*** I hope you not only rest, relax and spend time with family and friends, but also keep your minds sharp and ready to learn come next school year!

**Sincerely,**

**Mrs. Emily**