

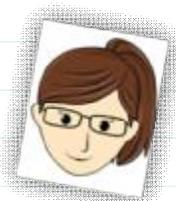
The Thinking Cap

Spring 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

Alexandra in Tutorland

[alexandra's musings](#)



Use your friends and family ... in a good way

One of my best pals, Sameer, spent a good portion of freshman year of college teaching me chemistry. He must have missed some great parties while explaining chemical mumbo jumbo, drilling formulas, and quizzing me on the fine art of balancing equations. At the end of the semester, I kind-of got chemistry. Meanwhile Sameer had really solidified his knowledge of the subject. By re-teaching me almost every ounce of the course, often by having to find innovative ways for the information to stick in my head, Sameer was forced to review the material. Though it's clear that our study sessions saved my butt (and my grade) in General Chemistry these lessons also helped Sameer to really know his stuff. It was, after all, a mutually beneficial relationship because both of us learned from studying together. Especially with finals coming around, keep this in mind as you think about creative ways of studying.

- Search out a friend or someone in a lower grade and help them with their work. Use your knowledge to teach the other person.
- Gather a couple of friends and create a Jeopardy style study session. Use the game format to quiz each other on facts, dates, names, etc.
- Sign-up to peer tutor or tag along with your teacher as she helps other students.
- Although parents and grandparents sometimes seem to know it all there is a good chance that they have their facts rusty. Sit down with a family member and teach them about the topic you are studying.

Send your questions to:

info@thinkingcapstutoring.com

Sense and Sensibility

you ask, we answer

Q: I'm really stuck...I didn't save any of my notes or old tests from the first half of the year and now I'm going to have a cumulative final exam. What do I do now?!

A: If your past homework assignments still exist then use them. Ask, beg, cajole your classmates for access to their notes then copy them; they may also be willing to lend you're their old tests. Some teachers will have previous years' tests and exams available which you could use for review. While inquiring ask your teacher for the privilege of accessing any notes and/or blank copies of the tests. Even blank tests from the first half of the year can be used to jog your memory. Now you know the error of your ways.

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Great Expectations

ü Check out Alexandra's article in the April issue of NYMetro Parents

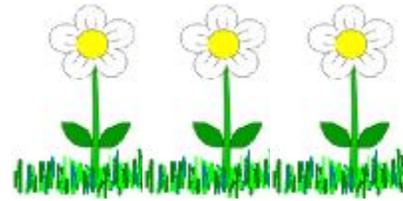
ü ThinkingCaps Summer Registration May 2009

ü Executive Moms Spring Luncheon April 21, 2009

ü NYS Regents June 2009

ü ACT April 4, 2009 June 13, 2009

ü SAT May 2nd, 2009 June 6th, 2009



Much Ado About Learning

our tips and helpful hints

Useful ideas on ways to prepare for finals and the end of the school year.

The number one thing I keep in mind is to start EARLY. Gather all of your notes, tests and quizzes. Make a list of what's easy and where the most attention is needed. --Sophia Lerdaahl

Don't attempt to study for all of your subjects at once. Decide what you're going to tackle and focus solely on that subject. Put away anything that may distract you. Review the material in chunks until you feel like you've gotten the information. Then take a 5 minute break and retest yourself. You will be surprised at how much you retain, and how much you can learn if you focus diligently. --Neil Kamdar

Study in small amounts and review the material that you studied in previous days. Every time you sit down to study something new you should also review. --Michelle Kuchuk

Create a "simultaneous" study plan. The process is as follows: Select the chapter/material that you want to cover for your day of studying. Then pick an activity or a few activities that you can do on your breaks such as watching a few music videos, having a snack, checking your email, etc. Study for the length of time that you are able to stay focused then take a 5-10 minute break doing one of your scheduled activities. Continue this process until you have covered all your material. The key here is planning. You need to plan out your time to a T!!! That way, you will avoid cramming and you will look forward to an organized study scheduled packed not only with studying, but also conducive break activities! --Amrita Bhattacharyya

Find out as early as you can from your teachers 1) when your final will be and 2) what you will be tested on. The sooner you know this information, the more time you'll have to set up a study schedule and hit the books. --Kate Krontiris



The (academic) Odyssey

review of education news



Sun, surf, and a side of learning

Every summer Thinking Caps Tutoring offers academic enrichment programs along with regular tutoring and exam prep. This summer TCT will be offering these same courses to students in the Hamptons area of eastern Long Island. The additional setting will allow TCT's NYC students who are planning to spend their summer away from our steaming metropolis the opportunity to continue their work and also introduces TCT to families on eastern Long Island.

Summer programs are a great way for students to stay on top of their

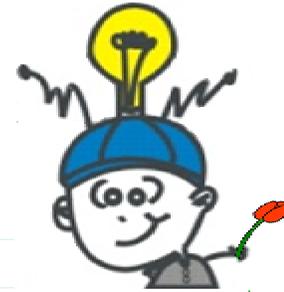
skills, expand their knowledge and have fun while working toward their academic goals. By spending time reviewing the material from the last year along with an introduction to the upcoming year students are better equipped to begin the new year. Summer test prep programs are very useful for intensive skills work when students want additional test taking strategies. In addition, these programs give students the opportunity to work on creative pursuits they often do not have time for during the busy school months. For example, among the many programs that TCT offers, **The Write Stuff** is an exciting

opportunity for students to develop language and writing skills through reading works of literature. Under TCT's guidance, students participate in hands-on learning activities and write original narratives.

Besides **The Write Stuff**, TCT's summer programs include, **Summer π**, **Taming the Test Monster** and the academic **Boot-camp**. So whether you are spending the summer in NYC or you're skipping town for the beach, TCT is available to bridge the gaps, keep minds in shape and encourage the imagination to roam.

--Gretchen Kail





A Tale of One Tutor

lessons we learned along the way

Learning to juggle

Spring makes me motivated to do just about anything except work, and it's always like that. When I was in high school, spring was my season: I was on the diving team and practices started at the end of February, it was the time we put the final touches on the yearbook, before we sent it to be bound, and it was when I began my count-down until summer vacation.

I've always been a busybody, one who needs to do something eighteen hours a day almost every day of the week. It makes me quite the juggler. During the spring semester of my senior year in high school on top of diving team and yearbook and homework, I also had a part-time job on the

weekends, working at a clothing store in the local mall. In order to do all the things that I enjoyed as well as do the things I loathed (papers, calculus), I had to be extremely organized. I learned to use the little breaks very wisely: I did calculus during my morning free period because that way I didn't have to lug the giant textbook from place to place, did my literature reading after dinner and left myself at least an hour for history regardless, because the reading was so tedious I got distracted easily. I also needed to know where all of my school books and notebooks were at all times because, since my parents were divorced, I changed houses multiple times during the week.

Even though I was definitely overscheduled, I still was able to make

time to enjoy the spring. Even European history was put on hold from time to time, so that I could get ice cream with my friends when it started to get warm. Spring also meant that the school quad was always packed with students either eating lunch or power-napping between classes.

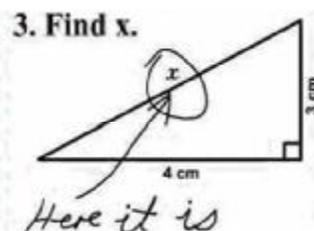
Now that the winter blues have been stacked away for next year and that the beautiful New York spring is upon us, prioritizing is key. No one wants to be stuck indoors all weekend because homework has stacked up and there is no time for fun.

--Ashley Leeds

Cat's Cradle

tantalizing brain ticklers

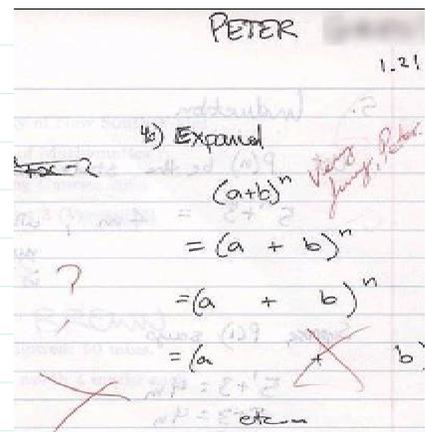
How to fail tests with dignity.



Sea salt is commercially obtained from sea water by the process of evaporation and crystallization. The main component of sea salt is sodium chloride.

What type of attractive force or bond holds the sodium ions and chloride ions together in a crystal of sodium chloride?

James bond.



Thinking Caps Tutoring is an innovative, after-school educational company that helps students acquire the skills and confidence needed to succeed in school, college, and beyond. TCT, through an individualized, descriptive screening process, matches students with student tutors best capable of overcoming a child's weak points and emphasizing strengths. Services provided at TCT include subject tutoring, skills coaching, homework support, standardized test prep and more.

For more information about TCT or any of the programs, please call us at 917.779.8183 or send an email to info@thinkingcapstutoring.com.

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