

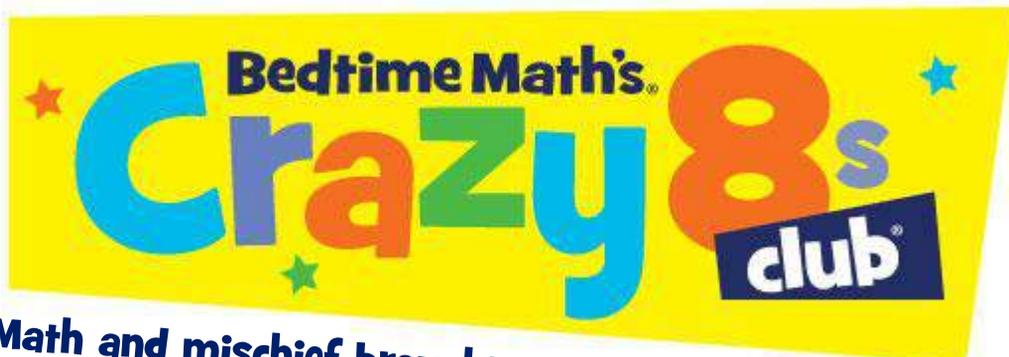
# Crazy 8s: Math Club for All!

Crazy 8s is a **nationwide after-school math club** designed to get kids fired up about math. Every week they get to build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess...and make friendships at the same time.

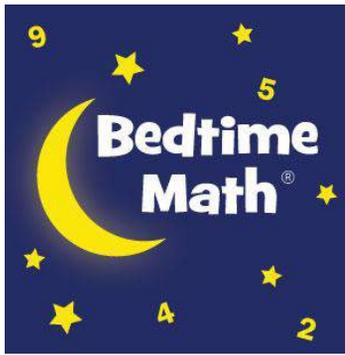
As part of our nonprofit mission, **Bedtime Math** has created a **free kit** of materials and instructions that brings math to life. Each kit is designed for 12-16 kids at two different age levels: **K-2 and 3-5**. Clubs can take place at schools, libraries and other after-school community programs. Any youngster who likes math should have the chance to enjoy it.

Crazy 8s clubs meet on a weekly basis for **8 weeks** with mischief-making activities like Bouncy Dice Explosion and Toilet Paper Olympics. Nearly all materials needed are in the free kit, and it's **easy to coach!**

It's time for math to be the cool thing to do after school.



**Math and mischief brought to you by Bedtime Math!**



# Crazy 8s by the Numbers

- 1:** Free kit for each club
- 2:** Age levels to choose from – K-2 and 3-5
- 4:** Different seasons of zany activities
- 8:** Wacky weeks of mischief-making activities per season
- 12-16:** Kids per club – enough to make it fun, but still manageable by a grown-up
- 10,000:** Clubs started nationwide, with many running multiple seasons
- 140,000:** Kids having fun with Crazy 8s

**It's nothing like your usual math club!**

[www.bedtimemath.org](http://www.bedtimemath.org)



# Everyone is Crazy About Crazy 8s!

**Crazy 8s** is fast becoming America's favorite math club for elementary kids, with nearly **10,000 clubs** serving **140,000 kids**. Here's what some of our coaches say:

★ *Students that didn't like math have decided that math can be fun. They are putting more effort in the classroom work after playing with math in fun ways after school.* – Sandra B., Crazy 8s Coach

★ *Thank you so much! Your kits are over the moon amazing. I'm so impressed. Kids are clamoring to get into the club!* – Gail R., Crazy 8s Coach

★ *The students had a BLAST and many students reported that...they started to like math more and to see that it has a purpose in our everyday life! How awesome is that?* – Rebekah F., Crazy 8s Coach

**Kids can love math.**  
**Join the movement and be a part of it!**

**[www.bedtimemath.org](http://www.bedtimemath.org)**

# Bedtime Math's **Crazy 8s** club

**Math and Mischief for Every Kid!**



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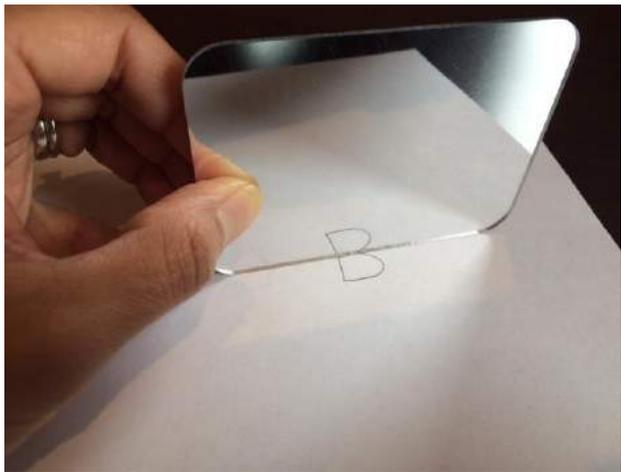
# Bedtime Math's **Crazy 8s** club

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# Bedtime Math's **Crazy 8s** club

**Math and Mischief for Every Kid!**



# Getting crazy with math

By: [Kristyne E. Demske](#), | [St. Clair Shores Sentinel](#) | Published February 1, 2017

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Far from the hushed atmosphere of a typical library, a room in the youth services department of the St. Clair Shores Public Library exploded with laughter and excitement on a recent Wednesday evening, all because of math.

The Crazy 8s Club, funded by the Bedtime Math Foundation, is meeting weekly at the library Wednesday evenings in January and February for children in kindergarten through second grade, with plans for another eight-week session of Crazy 8s for children in grades 3-5 set to begin in March.

On Jan. 25, the children were deeply embroiled in the Toilet Paper Olympics, which had them measuring a square of toilet paper, using that information to measure how tall they are, and then participating in Olympic-style games like a long jump measured by toilet paper, a shot put throw of a roll of toilet paper, and then a toilet paper relay race where teams competed to see who could unroll their roll first.

Tracy David, of St. Clair Shores, signed up her 7-year-old daughter, Micah, because math is her least-favorite subject in school.

“I thought this would make it more fun,” David said, adding that it seems to be working. “She’s having fun with this.”

According to its website, Crazy 8s is “a collection of novel, high-octane math activities that will appeal to a wide range of kids, not just the future math-contest types.”

“The goal of Crazy 8s is to show that math is fun and recreational, not compulsory, in order to change our culture and get kids to think of math as play.”

Jennifer Lysakowsky, of St. Clair Shores, heard about the club from a friend and thought her “mathematically inclined” 5-year-old son, Nikolai, would enjoy it.

She was right.

“He’s just been loving it,” she said, explaining that in the first week the children used glow sticks to make geometric shapes and have been doing other fun activities each week since then.

She appreciates the fun activities provided by the St. Clair Shores Public Library to keep her son engaged.

“We see stuff going on here all the time. This is a really great library,” she said.

Along with the Toilet Paper Olympics, Crazy 8s has included a week of creating shapes with glow sticks (and then seeing the results in the dark), creating musical instruments with straws, and talking about time with the creation of a human clock. The next week’s class was set to be about spy training and decoding, with the children learning how to code their phone number.

Dale Humeston, of Grosse Pointe Woods, said the group has really captured her grandsons' attention, and youth librarian Liz Drewek said engagement and fun are the point.

Bedtime Math sent the library almost all of the supplies for free, including stopwatches, measuring tapes and more, as well as the lesson plans. The group is meant to be a fun way to reinforce math concepts, not a study group or tutoring session, she said.

"We thought it would be a fun way to offer something we don't normally do," she said. "It is not meant to be a math class. You're not sitting down with a worksheet."

The next session, for older children, will include the same themes but with more difficult concepts and math to keep them engaged.

Pre-registration is required for the free group by calling the library at (586) 771-9020, or stopping by the library, as the group is limited to 16 children. The group meets 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and the K-2 group runs through Feb. 22. Registration begins Feb. 15 for the grades 3-5 group, and that group will meet weekly March 1-April 19.

For more information, visit [scslibrary.org/crazy8.html](http://scslibrary.org/crazy8.html) or [bedtimemath.org](http://bedtimemath.org).



Justin Carpenter, 5, and Luke Anderson, 8, of St. Clair Shores, measure squares of toilet paper Jan. 25 at the St. Clair Shores Public Library as part of the Crazy 8s Bedtime Math Club.

Photo by Kristyne E. Demske



# Millcreek Elementary students using Crazy 8 approach to make learning math more fun

Jan 13th, 2016 · 0 Comment

By Tammy L. Lane

*Special to KyForward*

Led by teacher Dawn Keith, a rowdy group of students toilet-papered the stage in their school gym – but it was all for the sake of measuring, multiplying, and making math more fun.

“We get to learn new stuff, and math makes me smarter,” said fourth-grader Kemani Bethany, who recently joined the Crazy 8s after-school club.

Keith, the math interventionist at The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek Elementary, launched the nationwide program there in November. The grades 3-5 club meets on Thursdays, and the K-2 group on Fridays for an eight-week series. Keith has limited each group to 20 children because the lessons pack so much into an hour.



*In the first session, dubbed Toilet Paper Olympics, the students divided into teams for the long jump, shot put, and relay race. Instead of pulling out a tape measure to mark their distances, the kids gauged their efforts via toilet paper taped to the stage floor (Photo Provided)*

Lending a hand each week is parent volunteer Tracy Curtis, the PTA's treasurer and an SBDM council member.

“The kids just love it. It's increasing their excitement about math. They're learning through play and don't even realize they're learning,” Curtis said. “We don't tell them the answer. We guide them, and they're learning to be independent thinkers.”

In the first session after winter break, dubbed Toilet Paper Olympics, the students divided into teams for the long jump, shot put, and relay race. This session covered concepts like estimation (educated guess), counting, and conversion of lengths.

But instead of pulling out a tape measure to mark their distances, the kids gauged their efforts via toilet paper taped to the stage floor. Three TP squares equaled one foot. After the long jump, for instance, each child counted the number of squares from the starting line to their landing point, and later used multiplication and division skills to translate the number into total feet.

In the end, every student took home their own tape measure for further experimentation.

Last fall, Keith heard an NPR interview about Bedtime Math, the nonprofit that provides Crazy 8s materials. After trying it with her own children at home, she applied for Millcreek and received free resources and lesson plans. She

introduced the idea at a Parents Night event, and the club has gained momentum through word of mouth among students.



“Especially with the older kids who are struggling, math’s not fun for them anymore. I really wanted to do something that shows how math is fun and it’s everywhere,” Keith said.

In the “Let’s Get Loud” lesson, for example, students made pan flutes out of milkshake straws, measured the length of the instruments, and talked about measuring sound through pitch and volume. With “Time of Your Life,” they became the parts of a clock.

“The tall kid got to be the minute hand, and the short kid got to be the hour hand. We’d call out times, and they’d run around to build it with their bodies,” Keith recalled.

In another popular session, the children arranged geometrical designs and patterns with hundreds of glow sticks. “It helped me understand, and it blew my mind away because I’d never learned that before,” said third-grader Jamariah Williams.

Keith hopes the Crazy 8s club not only helps students get more comfortable with math but also reinforces the connections between the classroom and real life.

“It’s more kids understanding that math is in everything you do every day,” she said. “It’s breaking down those barriers and misconceptions and having a good time with math.”

*Tammy Lane writes for the Fayette County Public Schools website*

**Tags:**Fayette County Public Schools · featured · Millcreek Elementary School · Tammy Lane

# ***Berks-Mont*** **EDUCATION**

## **Perry Elementary Center students are crazy about new math club**

*By Anne Ostrowski, For Berks-Mont Newspapers*

POSTED: 05/06/15, 1:59 PM EDT | UPDATED: ON 05/06/2015  
0 COMMENTS



Kathy Reinert

Students at Perry Elementary Center are crazy about a new after-school math club that uses everyday items to teach concepts in a fun and interactive way.

The Crazy 8s Math Club, started at the school by volunteer Alison Haines, is a free, eight-week program that engages children in experiments about geometry, distance, time, gravity, angles and sound, all using household items. On Tuesday afternoons, kindergarteners, first-graders and second-grade students meet in the cafeteria for activities that combine learning with fun.

In one recent session, students built catapults out of spoons, popsicle sticks and pencils to launch marshmallows and measure their distances. In another, they made geometric

forms out of glow-in-the-dark sticks and giant clocks using their bodies to learn about time. Each session includes an explanation of the concepts and terminology of the day's activity and a review of past learning before the students divide into small groups for the experiments.

Staffed completely by volunteers from the community and the school, the Crazy 8s club is an offshoot of Bedtime Math, a website developed by Laura Bilodeau Overdeck to emphasize math in early learning. When Haines, the mother of a first-grader in the Hamburg district and a preschooler at home, heard about the club, she approached the Perry PTO about starting it at the school. Soon three teachers, Debra Hay, Laura Kuklis and Kathy Reinert volunteered to lead groups of children at each session. Students who showed promise in math in the early grades were invited to participate and the response was huge.

According to Reinert, there was a real need for the club.

“When the idea was presented by Alison (affectionately known at the school as “Momma Haines”), I knew immediately that this was something we needed to do for our younger students,” she said. “We opened the math club to 20 students and, sadly, we had to turn some away, because the group filled so quickly. We hope to run the Club again next year.”

“I think it’s important to get kids involved in extracurriculars,” said Haines, “and there was nothing at the school for children in kindergarten through second grade. It’s important to highlight how academics can be fun.”

Haines feels the activities are so popular with the kids because they can relate to the math concepts in a physical, rather than a theoretic way.

“When we use everyday objects, like toilet paper in our Toilet Paper Olympics or stuffed animals for our Zipline Zoo, we show the kids the math that is hidden in the items,” she said. “This allows them to play while we teach them the math concepts behind the activities.”

Reinert, too, sees the value of the hands-on interaction.

“At the beginning of the program, several of the students thought that math was simply doing worksheets,” Reinert said. “Now they realize that math is fun and is a part of their everyday lives.”

The kids are excited about the program, too.

Sadie Haines, a first-grader in the club, loves math and says the Crazy 8s club makes you love it even more.

“You get to do many, many things that you don’t think math is in,” she said. “I love that we get things when we’re done, like a stopwatch and a tape measure that we can use at home.”

Jaxon Seidel, a second-grader, has a new appreciation for the subject.

“I liked math before,” he said. “But now I like it a thousand times more because it’s fun!”

As the mother of a daughter, Haines felt additionally compelled to provide opportunities for girls in a subject which has often been geared toward boys.

“Girls are sometimes not thought to be as capable of math as boys,” Haines said. “I want girls to have available the opportunity to succeed at the earliest possible age and to show that they can excel in math.”

Seeing the kids get excited about math is the biggest reward for Haines and the other volunteers.

“It’s incredible to hear them yell out ‘polygons’ and ‘octagons’ — information they’ve retained from the earliest days of the club — when we review concepts at the beginning of each session,” she said. She noted that the support of the school administration and the volunteers willing to implement the program are essential to the club’s success.

For Reinert, math club brings out the best in students.

“As a teacher, it is very rewarding to have a group of kids so energized about learning that they are willing to stay after school,” she said, “and actually complain when we tell them it is time to go home.”

To start a Crazy 8s math club, contact [www.bedtimemath.com](http://www.bedtimemath.com). Most of the supplies needed for the experiments are provided free by Bedtime Math, and the use of common school and household items offsets much of the small out-of-pocket expense for volunteers.

## Millburn area resident's math clubs sweeping the nation

BY MATTHEW KADOSH

MANAGING EDITOR |

THE ITEM OF MILLBURN AND SHORT HILLS

She's reluctant to call it a "math club" for fear that it could scare away the children, but elementary school students from across the nation are virtually lining up to participate in a math program spearheaded by a township author's non-profit foundation.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW KADOSH

Surabhi Chopra, a township resident and parent coach, guides children during an after-school enrichment program at a local elementary school on Nov. 21. By timing the path of stuffed animals down a "zip-line" students get a hands on feel for mathematics.

With two "Bedtime Math" books under her belt Laura Overdeck is putting her book-sale proceeds into funding Crazy 8s after-school programs for children in Millburn and nationwide

"We're in every state except North Dakota," Overdeck said.

Prior to her days writing children's math-books, the township resident studied astrophysics, an worked in venture capital, but she wanted to bring the benefits of her "Bedtime Math" books a website with children's math puzzles, which give parents and children "fun" math to do, to a wider audience.

"We realized we needed a more hands-on offering and that's what Crazy 8s is," Overdeck said.

"It's a hands-on math club, not like the competitive math clubs... That only appeals to a small slice of kids."

They launched the clubs earlier this year, sending out free kits with materials for hand-on math projects and find the number of clubs multiplying beyond expectations.

"We hoped to get 300 clubs launched by this fall and we have over 2,000. It's a complete explosion," Overdeck said adding that "people are hungry for fun math."

In Millburn, the after-school initiative, one of many after school programs run by local PTO's, could be seen thriving in the faculty lounge of Deerfield School on Nov. 21, where children were running stuffed animals attached with paper clips down a "zip-line," and measuring their speed

"First we measured with a 10-foot string, and then with a 15-foot string, and then we had them change the weight and see if it comes down faster or slower," said Surabhi Chopra, one of the parent coaches at the program.

Jyoti Sharma, a local parent who heads up the PTO-led Crazy 8s after school enrichment program at the school, explained their goal.

"The kids are learning math in a fun way," she said. "We want to make sure that math is fun, just like soccer or other sports."

The program runs for eight weeks. One session is offered to students in grades three through five, and another is offered to kindergarten through second-grade students, Sharma said, adding that currently 19 children participate in the programs at Deerfield. A similar Crazy 8s series is also being conducted at Millburn's Wyoming School.

Overdeck said the programs also include having students learn geometry by constructing models out of glow-sticks shoved into Styrofoam balls and another activity has them measure decibels

"Let's get loud: the kids actually yell into a decibel meter and they learn how decibels work," she said.

Overdeck said her foundation plans to announce a second season kit next month and begin shipping it in early January. "No re-runs," she said.

So how did the name Crazy 8s come about?

"We wanted something with a number in it, and we didn't want to call it 'math club' because people would run screaming," Overdeck said, adding that there are eight people in her foundation.

But it doesn't appear as if Overdeck has to worry about children fearing math anytime soon.

"We had several schools tell us they have 60 kids on the waitlist for the math club," she said.

"And to have a waitlist for a math club is kind of revolutionary."

Dr. Sumi Hagiwara, assistant professor in the department of early childhood, elementary and literacy education at Montclair State University said that by contextualizing mathematical problems the students are given additional opportunities to reinforce learning of mathematics that may have been taught in a traditional classroom setting.

"Making math social and collaborative, making it hands on, focusing on creativity and collaboration this is all what we see as a constructivist and student centered approach to learning," she said.

"That's one of the challenges of math education: children often feel they are disengaged, but when coupled within a topic that children can relate to, it's a more positive," learning experience," she said.

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