

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tampa Sixth Grader Participates in International Education Panel Student Represents North America at Kumon's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Tokyo

TAMPA, Fla. (October 28, 2008) – Liberty Middle School student Sheela Ranganathan, 11, will make history when she travels to Tokyo in December to participate in an international student panel to discuss education. The sixth grader is among a select group of students from across the world invited to participate in Kumon's International Instructors' Conference & 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Sheela began Kumon at the age of five and is the first student in North America to graduate from both the math and reading programs before middle school. Sheela completed daily math and reading assignments and visited the Kumon center twice a week.

"Sheela is one of the few students worldwide to reach this incredible accomplishment while enrolled in elementary school," said Kazu Shibata, president of Kumon North America. "It is quite rare for a young student to have the skill, ability and commitment to achieve this goal, and to do so takes great effort. Because of this, she is invited to participate in our global celebration and panel discussion."

Kumon, the world's largest after-school math and reading program, is celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Tokyo Dome. More than 15,000 Kumon instructors, staff and students representing nearly 45 countries are expected to participate in the conference.

"I am proud of Sheela for setting and achieving this ambitious goal," said her Instructor Shuko Saito, of the Kumon Center in New Tampa. "Every student possesses unlimited potential and if given an opportunity can reach it."

Sheela mastered differential calculus, indefinite/definite integrals and differential equations in the final level of the math program and interpretation/critique of literature the reading section.

Last year, only 1,017 students in North America graduated Kumon's math and reading programs out of more than 250,000. Sheela is the first to graduate in North America while still in elementary school.

In addition to her academic interests, Sheela enjoys playing the piano, tennis and Indian vocals and dance. She also is a fan of mystery books. Her life goal is to be a surgeon.

About Kumon Math and Reading Centers

Kumon is an after-school math and reading program that unlocks the potential of children by motivating them to achieve more on their own. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008, the learning method uses a systematic individualized approach that helps children develop a solid command of math and reading skills. Through daily practice and mastery of materials, students increase confidence, improve concentration and develop better study skills. Kumon has 26,000

centers in 45 countries and more than four million students studying worldwide. For more information call 800-ABC-MATH. Visit www.kumon.com.

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