

box cars and one-eyed jacks®

From Authors John and Jane



Welcome to October! It's one of our favorite months here at Box Cars - Canadian Thanksgiving and Fall: US State conventions and professional development opportunities abound. Its a busy time for us and we love it!

With it being Canadian Thanksgiving, John and I are first and foremost extending thanks and gratitude to our office staff: Celia our office manager, our two shippers Theresa and Theresa (I know.....hard to tell them apart) and our great team of Consultants. Box Cars continues to be successful because of our team. John and I know that we have the very best staff and when we are out doing workshops, everything back home is running smoothly and professionally. We count our blessings every day - Thanks TEAM!

The focus this month for our downloadable games continues to be operations - With a Baseball Theme for our US neighbors. Have fun during the World Series with some of the activities we've included in our "Games of the Month"

Nancy Paulson, our consultant of the month, has created a new baseball themed shaker activity... and Million Dollar Math also focuses

baseball-themed shaker activity - and Million Dollar Math also focuses on our Shakers. Extra activities are included in this section for you to download. Remember to click on our Fun Factoids. Lots of embedded integrated math/literacy/geography ideas for you to explore.

Happy Fall - We hope your school year is running smoothly and that games are being used frequently. We'd love to hear from you!



Games of the Month!



In Honor of the World's Series, check out these great Baseball-themed math games!

Primary: [Nine Plus](#)
[Minus Nine](#)

Elementary: [T-Ball](#)
[Baseball 3](#)

Bonus! One of John and

Jane's favorite games:
[Batter's Up](#)



Consultants' Corner

~Nancy McGuire - Paulson~



[Click HERE for Nancy's Teaching and Consulting Background](#)

"Number-lines are everywhere! -

Football fields, elevators, thermometers, and in the classroom. Using a number line to make sense of, and solve, problems is an under-utilized strategy in many classrooms. After completing my Masters degree in K-8 Mathematics Education, I became a big believer in number lines. I use Box Cars' number-lines often, even with games that may not have been written for the number lines.

Order in the Court, in the *Double Dare You* book, is one of my favorite Box Cars' games.

[Click here for directions.](#) It can be played at different levels, but I play it with my 5th grade class. The game involves lining up fractions in order from least to greatest. Students can use a 0-1 number-line in order to reason about where to place their fractions to win the game! When students explain their reasoning it is evident that the number-line helped to order the fractions. [Click HERE](#) and [HERE](#) to see student work and explanations. When we get to working with Fractions greater than one (Improper fractions) we use a number-line that ranges from 1-10. Kids love it!"

Fun Factoids!

October 2016

Click The Links in the Coloured Boxes for Math & Literacy Integration Activities and

Math & Literacy Integration Activities and Fun Trivia!

And click [HERE](#) for our Professional Workshop Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
						1
2	3	4	World Teachers' Day! A Very Special Box Cars Tribute to all our Favorite Teachers!	6	7	8
9	Canadian Thanksgiving! We are thankful for YOU!  Click HERE for a special Thanksgiving Coupon	11	12	13	Be Bald and Free Day!  Learn the TRUE STORY of PLUNGERMAN aka our own John Felling!	15
Dictionary Day! Got an old dictionary? Put it to use with these great spelling and vocab games!	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	World Series Begins Celebrate with Nancy	26	27	28	29

Paulson's
Baseball
Average
SHAKE UP
game!

30

31

\$\$ Million Dollar Math on a Dollar Store Budget \$\$

PILL CONTAINERS

For the past few years I have been presenting a really fun math workshop entitled "Million Dollar Math on a Dollar Store Budget". The **MATH SHAKERS** idea kept coming up front and center as the "#1 Idea" to get done.

The original ideas for the Math Shakers evolved from Million Dollar Math, where I demonstrated activities using a standard pill container, easily found in dollar stores. I opened the seven Sunday to Saturday slots, and filled the container with regular spotted dice. Instantly I had an engaging, fun, cool, awesome MATH SHAKER. Little did I know at the time how many mathematical things could be done with it! More importantly, how much students would love the shakers, and want to use them over and over again. It makes sense - it's engaging and intriguing to use because of its novelty and its kinesthetic hands-on feel. It also has an auditory component - it makes a great learning noise. The students can't keep their hands off them.

The more I shared the ideas in my Million Dollar Math sessions, the more teachers would tell me it was their number one take away from the workshop. Many teachers would visit me the next day of the conference or email me to say they had already run out to the dollar store to buy containers and couldn't wait to have their students start playing with them. Without a doubt the biggest "wows, awesome, so easy, ahas", would come after I shared MATH SHAKERS.

If purchasing PILL CONTAINERS from dollar stores or pharmacies, keep in mind the following:

1. Ensure slots are large enough to accommodate the type of dice you have to put in them. Pill containers come in a wide variety of slot sizes, double check

when purchasing.

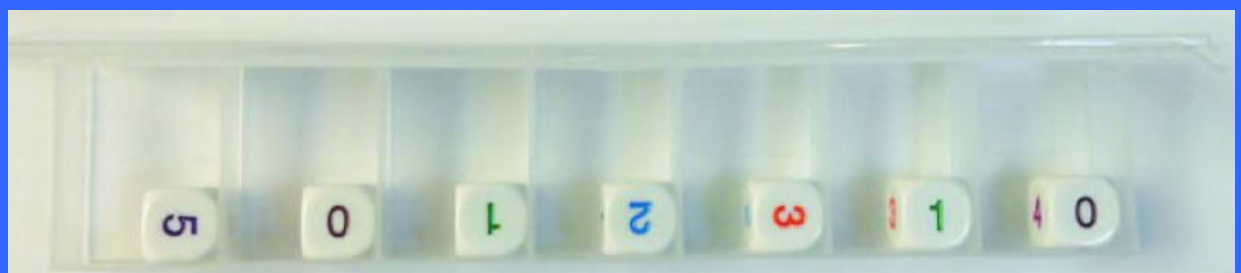
2. Clear, rather than colored, containers are better for use with students.
3. Use nail polish remover with acetone or "magic sponges" to rub off and remove pre-printed days of the week (S-M-T-W-T-F-S).



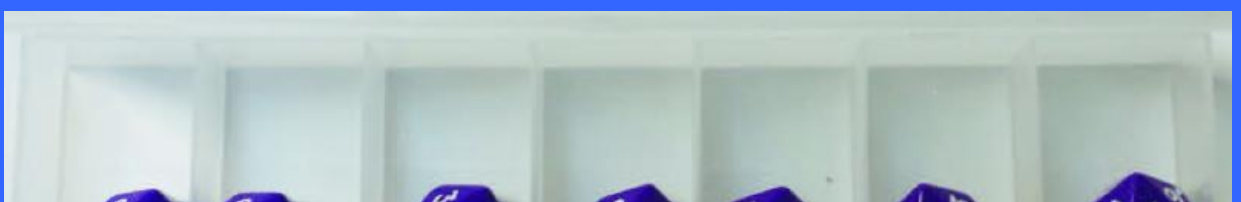
4. When the shakers are filled, place a strong rubber band around the entire container, ensuring any "over zealous" students don't lose any dice.

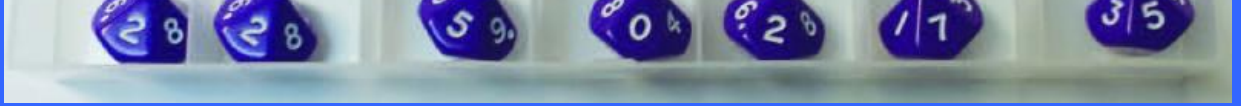


We have tried different kinds of dice in the slots to vary the math:

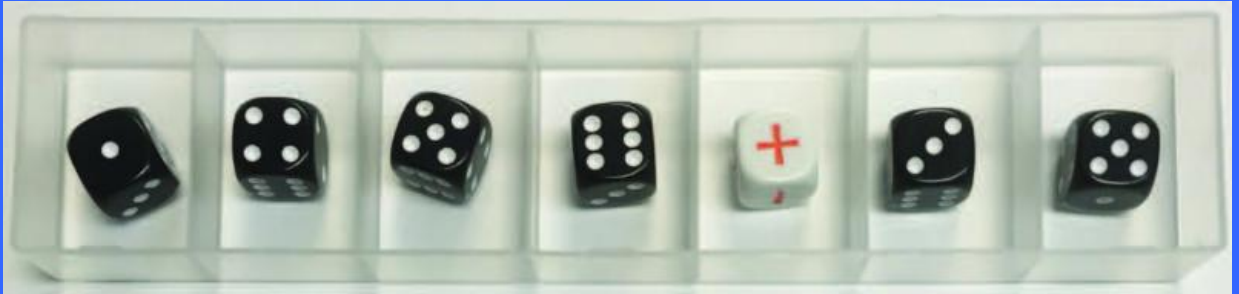


Our 0-5 dice work great and can help teach addition to 10, multiplication to 25 and place value.





Our 0-9 can fit and do roll. However students would have to be mature enough to read numbers upside down/askew, as the shaker doesn't allow for perfect upright landings every time. They aren't perfect, but if you think your students may be up for a challenge, 0-9 dice can help teach addition to 18, multiplication to 81, place value 10's and 1's.



Or consider Inserting operation dice (2 function or 4 function).



Activities to try:

Primary: [Make a Ten](#)

Upper Elementary: [Advanced Place Value Shakers](#)



The activities have proven so popular that Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks decided to manufacture our own MATH SHAKERS, and not rely on what you might find at a dollar store. Box Cars MATH SHAKERS contain 7 slots, designed to hold regular spotted dice. For most activities, each slot should contain 1 die, preferably a round-edged die. Round-edged dice roll more easily. Our dice and containers have been manufactured to allow for the greatest random rolling to maximize fair play and are clear to ensure visual clarity for students.

We have manufactured our MATH SHAKERS with a single-hinge top, to make loading the dice simple and straightforward. The clasps are designed so that the lid won't come open when shaking, so they may be tight when first opened. Our recommendation when using the shakers is to always open and close starting with the center clasp, then the left and right clasps. This will ensure ease of opening, and a secure shaker when closed. [Click HERE to see our Math Shaker Resource and Kits.](#)

Sweet Deals of the Month!

To keep face cards and aces from confusing the math concepts in our games, Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks has specially printed our own special cards! Instead of jacks, queens, kings and aces, these decks have elevens, twelves, ones and zeroes.



Our mini decks are smaller than regular playing cards to fit better in the smaller hands that are meant to use them!

5/\$10

Box of 200 for
your school:
\$300.00

Regular: \$2.50/deck

Measuring 4" by 6", cards from this demonstration-sized deck make it easy for teachers to model a math game or concept from anywhere in the classroom.

2/\$20

4/\$36

Regular \$12/deck

*Offer applies to phone and email orders only

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Fax: (780) 440-1619

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