

OG Greek Night Date is SET!

I just don't know what it is yet.

As of the time of the printing of this newsletter, I have not heard from Sabine. However, **stay tuned to your email for an announcement over the long weekend!**

February is a month of anticipation. Wind, snow, persistent low clouds, with just a few smacks of sunshine, have edged winter along to the ridge over which spring will appear, and there it waits. We are likely to think of this month as a season of futility, frustrations and fractiousness. If people are going to boil over, they usually do it in February... *Grace Rotzel 1957*

Hello Everyone

Oldest Group Newsletter February 15, 2007

We read the chapter in Tom Sawyer when the kids perform in front of their community in a school exhibition. This exhibition ends when the kids exact revenge on their teacher by snatching his wig off of his head during the final recitations.

This got us talking about what schools were like in Mark Twain's time. In order to really experience it, we decided to 'play school' in the OG classroom. To that end we got a hold of some primers from the late 1870's, put the tables and benches into rows and got to it.

Some kids memorized texts and gave recitations before the whole 'school.' Others memorized spelling lists or worked math problems on their slates.

We even had a visit from our 'school superintendent' who I am sorry to say, was forced to put at least one of your children in the corner for speaking out of turn!



Oldest Group 'Plays School'

Ben and Adam study spelling words while the girls learn passages... Later we read aloud from Laura Ingalls Wilder's book describing her times as a teacher in a one-room school house.

Normal Standard Arithmetic
Brooks, copyright Philadelphia, 1895:

Some of the math from the primers that we did:

A tailor bought $\frac{3}{4}$ of a piece of cloth for \$36; how many dollars are 4 pieces of the cloth worth?

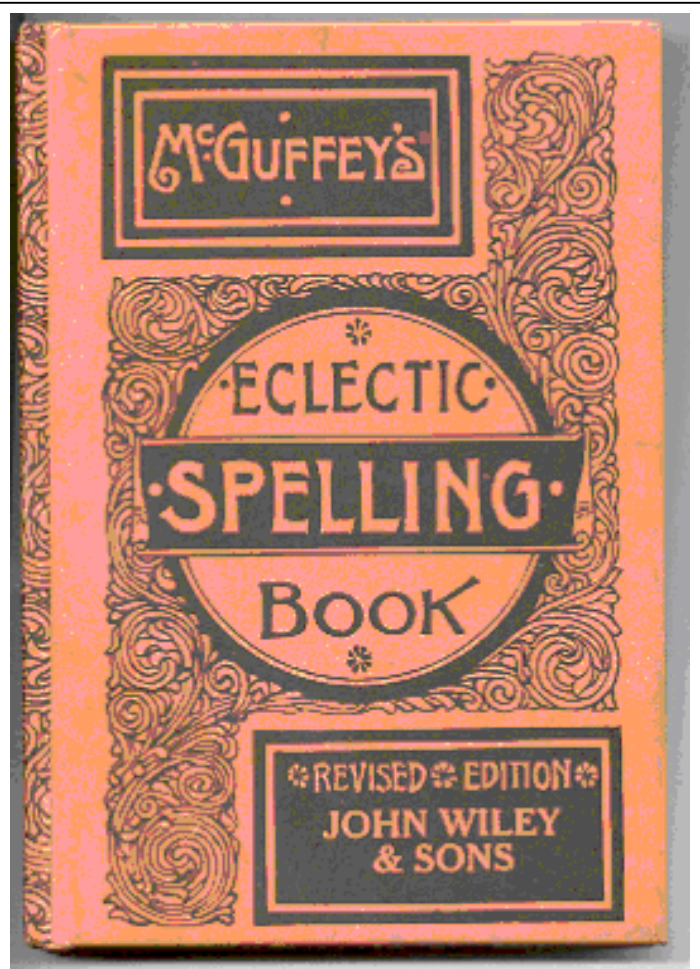
SOLUTION.—If $\frac{3}{4}$ of a piece cost \$36, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a piece costs $\frac{1}{3}$ of \$36, or \$12, and $\frac{4}{4}$ of a piece, or 1 piece, costs 4 times \$12, or \$48; and four pieces will cost 4 times \$48, or \$192.

What is the product of $\frac{5}{6}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$?

SOLUTION: — $\frac{5}{6}$ multiplied by *one* equals $\frac{5}{6}$, hence $\frac{5}{6}$ multiplied by $\frac{1}{4}$ equals $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{5}{6}$, which is $\frac{5}{24}$; and $\frac{5}{6}$ multiplied by $\frac{3}{4}$ equals 3 times $\frac{5}{24}$, which is $\frac{15}{24}$, or $\frac{5}{8}$.

Reduce $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ to similar fractions.

SOLUTION.—A common denominator



This was a fun way to get our spelling and math done this week!



Laura and Megan
recite from one of
the primers.