

From the Editor

The Editor apologizes to members for the unusual lapse of time between your last receipt of *Delta-K* and the present mailing. We had planned to devote an entire number to "Mathematics and Reading", which would have been especially useful to our elementary members, but we were unable to obtain material as we had anticipated. Having thus missed our submission deadline, we put together this 'Double Issue': numbers 2 and 3 of volume XII. We sincerely hope that every reader will find in it something to pique his imagination, improve his teaching, or stimulate his professional growth.

The Mathematics Teacher Looks at Reading

Alfred Capoferi
Macomb Intermediate School District
Michigan

It has been said that every teacher is a teacher of reading. If this is true, then all math teachers are reading teachers as well as math teachers. But do all mathematics teachers teach their students to read mathematics? Is there a distinct difference between ordinary reading and reading of mathematics? The main purpose of this article is to focus attention on reading mathematics and how improved reading skills can facilitate learning and understanding of mathematics.

Reading is one of the most complex learning tasks that students encounter in their learning experiences. Frequently, the degree to which children master ordinary reading tasks is correlated to their success in learning mathematics. To complicate matters, the reading tasks of mathematics are even more complex than those normally encountered in the basic reading programs of the schools. Therefore, extra attention must be taken to emphasize special reading skills needed in the area of mathematics.

The following are some of the skills necessary for successful reading of mathematics content:

1. The students must be able to translate the words, phrases, sentences and sentence combinations. This translating process requires that students possess four vocabularies:
 - a verbal symbol vocabulary,
 - a numerical symbol vocabulary,
 - a literal symbol vocabulary,
 - an operational symbol vocabulary and the ability to attack new words which the student may have never encountered before in print.