

Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

Volume 14

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May 1996

Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of the teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics.

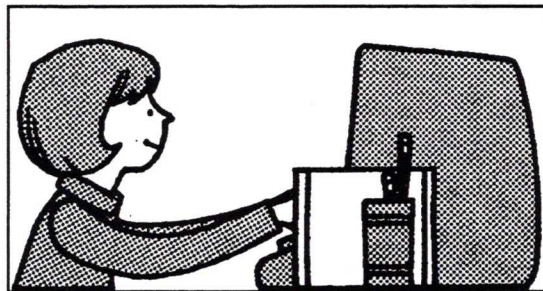
Welcome to a New Format

In order that MCATA members receive news and information regarding mathematics as promptly as possible, the MCATA executive is presenting a new format. We hope that by delivering the news in a smaller, more frequent format, members will have more current access to information.

Feature news will include updates from the president, the membership, Alberta Education, NCTM and upcoming conferences. As well, we would like to feature highlights on excellent ideas in elementary, junior and senior high schools.

I welcome all submissions from members regarding what's happening in mathematics in your school or district as well as any classroom activities that work for you. Please submit any photos that accompany your activity.

If you would like to see a regular feature in the newsletter regarding mathematics, send your suggestions to Betty Morris, 9807 106 Street NW, Edmonton T5K 1C2; phone 441-6104 (bus.), 466-0539 (res.); fax 441-6145.



Betty Morris
Communications Director

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- ☞ NCTM Canadian Regional Conference, Vancouver, August 22-24, 1996
- ☞ '96 MCATA Conference, Red Deer, November 1-3, 1996

Ideas That Work

Elementary

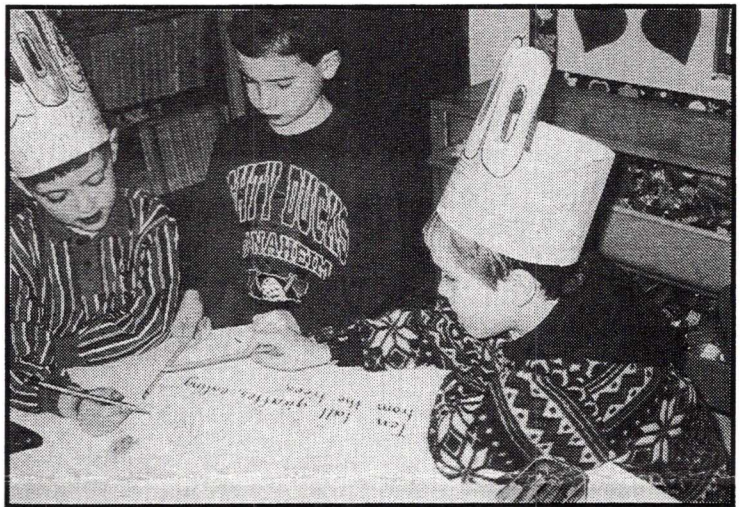
One-Hundred-Day Celebration

In February, classrooms across Alberta celebrated 100 days of school this year. Students celebrated by counting, measuring, writing, drawing, estimating, calculating and eating with the number 100. Ideas for celebrating included

- estimating amounts of objects in a bag to 100,
- bringing to school 100 objects that can fit in a paper bag,
- having each child bring enough cupcakes to make 100 in the class and then sharing with another classroom,
- measuring in nonstandard and standard units objects that would measure about 100 (macaroni, paper clips, centimetres, decimeters and so on),

- writing group or class books based on 100,
- writing and drawing what they would look like when they are 100 years old,
- drawing 100 spots on a blown-up picture of a Dalmatian, and
- sharing a cake that has 100 candles.

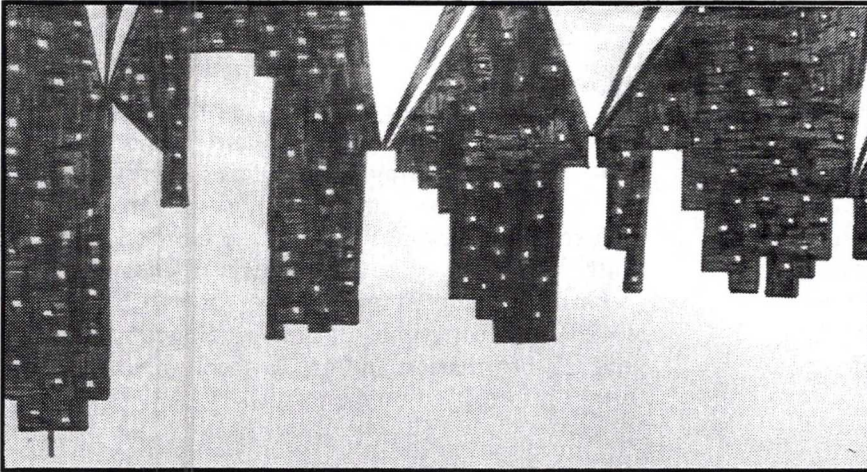
(One school had a teacher named "Zero the Hero" who visited the children every 10 days. The classes discussed grouping in tens and the meaning of zero.)



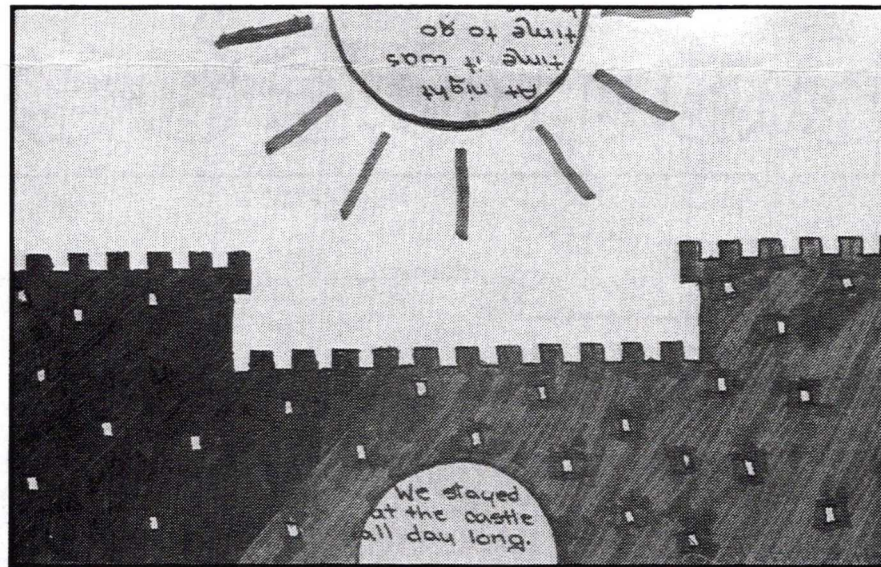
Connections

For the past two years, the Edmonton Catholic School District and the University of Alberta have worked together in a partnership. Education students enrolled in a math methods and language arts methods course, offered by Katherine Willson and Roberta McKay, worked with students from three schools in activities promoting and connecting math with

literature and communication. The students plan and develop activities incorporating math and language arts outcomes from the Program of Studies, using good literature as a link. The students in the class become actively involved with the story through hands-on math activities, drawing, writing and sharing. One Grade 5 class read *The Round Trip* by Ann Jonas. Discussion and activities centred on geometry, (reflections, symmetry, turns) and the children designed their own drawings.



Robyn Ferguson



Kathy Iwaniuk

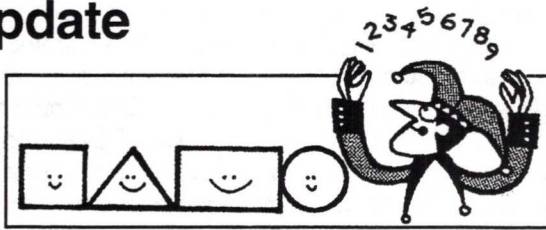
Secondary

At Sir John Thompson School in Edmonton, junior high students were busy connecting technology to data management. Students surveyed different classes to find out their favorite foods, sports and so on. They then used spreadsheets to display, sort and find the mean,

median and mode. Generating different graphs led to discussion on the best way to display information.

If you have any excellent ideas or activities that you would like to share, write them on paper. Pictures or copies of sample work would give teachers a better idea. Send to Betty Morris, 9807 106 Street NW, Edmonton T5K 1C2; fax 441-6145.

Alberta Education Update



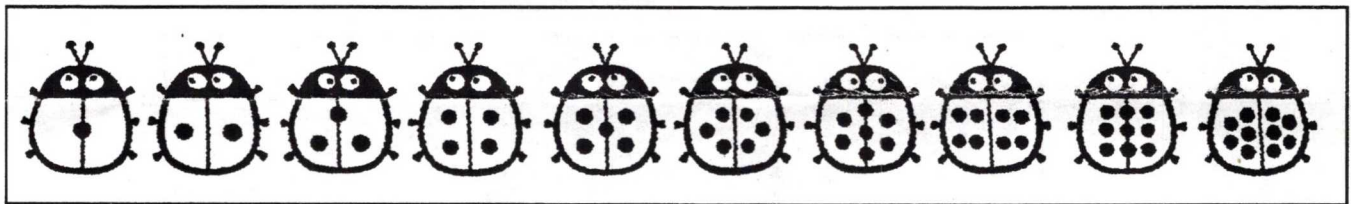
Of particular interest is the listing of the junior high resources as September 1996 is the implementation date for the Western Common Curriculum Framework in Grades 7 and 9. Copies of the Western Common Curriculum Framework document can be ordered through the LRDC (order #302183). For information on the document and listings, contact Alberta Education, Curriculum Standards Branch, phone 427-2984.

Curriculum and Standards

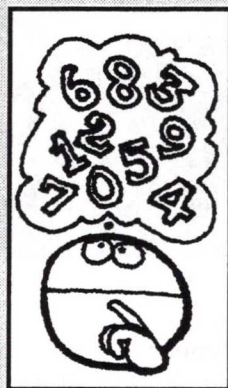
In February, the Western Canada Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education put out an all-call to publishers for submission of resources for approval for listing. In the first two weeks of March, 60 teachers from across the four western provinces and two territories reviewed more than 3,000 pieces of material for approval for listing. The approved materials will be listed in an annotated bibliography, which will include resources from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Evaluation

Alberta achievement exams are fast approaching. In June 1996, Grades 3, 6 and 9, and Math 30 and 33 will be writing mathematics achievement exams. The Grade 3 and 6 math exams are based on a setting or scenario, while the Grade 9 and Math 33 exams are based on several settings or scenarios. Contact Percy Hampton or Rita Boonstra at 427-0010 for copies of Alberta Education's general information and grade-specific bulletins for further information on the exams.



Problem Corner



1. How would your life change if a day were 48 hours long?

(Source: *Interactions*)

2. Two different numbers are drawn from the set $\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ without replacement. What is the probability that the product of the numbers selected is a multiple of three?

(Source: *Mathematics Teacher*, March 1996)

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Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers' Association

Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award

This award is conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of mathematics education in Alberta. It is presented to the recipient at the MCATA annual conference.

Selection Criteria

Within his/her career in mathematics education, the nominee must have demonstrated leadership in encouraging the continuing enhancement of the teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics, through the display of

- excellence as a classroom teacher, and/or
- exceptional contributions to the professional development of other teachers at the school, local, provincial or national levels.

Eligibility

The nominee must be a member of MCATA.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the award should be forwarded to the selection committee. A complete nomination application includes

- information about the nominee (Part 1),
- information about the nominator (Part 2), and
- three letters of support that reflect the criteria listed (Part 3).

For more information, contact Wendy Richards, Chair, Outstanding Mathematics Educator Selection Committee, 505-12207 Jasper Avenue NW, Edmonton T5N 3K2; phone 482-2210 (res.), 453-1576 (bus.); fax 455-7605.

Deadline for applications: **June 30, 1996**

**Mathematics Council of
The Alberta Teachers' Association**

Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award

Nomination Form

Part 1

Nominee's name _____
Home Address _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Phone Home _____ Business _____
Business address _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Signature of nominee _____ Date _____
MCATA membership number _____ Member since _____

Part 2

Nominator's name _____
Home address _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Phone Home _____ Business _____
Business address _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Signature of nominator _____ Date _____

Part 3

A minimum of two letters of support. (Please see reverse side for criteria, eligibility and nomination procedure.)

Please forward to Wendy Richards, Chair, Outstanding Mathematics Educator Selection Committee,
505-12207 Jasper Avenue NW, Edmonton T5N 3K2; phone 482-2210 (res.), 453-1576 (bus); fax 455-7605.

Deadline for application: **June 30, 1996**