

# Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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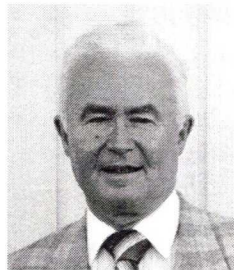
December 1996

## Season's Greetings from Art

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

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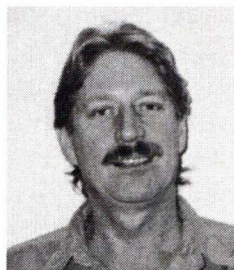


### Thought for the Day

Never part without loving words to think of during your absence. It may be that you will not meet again in life. ▲

—Art Jorgensen

## Season's Greetings from the MCATA Executive



We are now into December, winter break will soon be here and we are almost 40 percent through the school year. What may have seemed to be a very long stretch from September to the end of December is merely a "blip" in our lives. The MCATA executive wishes you all a very happy holiday season and the best for 1997. We look forward to serving the Mathematics Council membership in the upcoming year. ▲

—George Ditto

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## Congratulations!

Congratulations to MCATA Vice President Dick Kopan, who has been selected to the Board of Directors of NCTM. It is great to have someone from Alberta on this prestigious board. ▲

# Student Evaluation

## Student Evaluation Branch

### **Mathematics 33**

The Mathematics 33 bulletin for 1996-97 is being sent to all Alberta schools.

### **Mathematics 30 Diploma Examination Program**

The following items are new for the 1996-97 school year:

1. There was an extra administration of the Mathematics 30 Diploma examination on November 8, 1996. Times, locations and so on, are published in the 1996-97 General Diploma Information Bulletin.
2. A Guide for students was published this fall in all the mathematics and science diploma examination subject areas.
3. The examination design for Mathematics 30 has changed for the 1996-97 school year in that the numerical-response questions are dispersed throughout the multiple-choice questions, placed according to content topic.

Please note that the Policy: Use of Scientific Calculators on Alberta Education Diploma Examinations, is the same for all mathematics and science diploma examinations, and has not changed from the 1995-96 policy. A copy of this policy is found in the 1996-97 General Diploma Information Bulletin. It was inadvertently omitted from the Mathematics 30 and Physics 30 diploma bulletins during an electronic transfer printing problem.

## **Achievement Assessment Program**

Information Bulletins reporting the results of the Grades 3, 6 and 9 June 1996 Achievement Assessments and providing information regarding the June 1997 assessments are being sent to schools in November.

Development of the Achievement Tests will

occur as they have for the last two years. Approximately two-thirds of the previous year's items are reused on the test and the rest are new.

In response to the changes in curriculum; the Grades 3 and 6 Achievement Tests will be blueprinted to the interim program of studies and will test outcomes that are common to the interim and protocol mathematics programs of studies.

The Grade 9 Achievement Test will be blueprinted to the general outcomes of the Protocol Program of Studies, June 1996. To assure fairness of the Grade 9 Achievement Test, extensive reviews and validations of the curriculum standards are being conducted.

## **Alberta Distance Learning Centre**

### **Grade 7 Student Mathematics Package**

A student package for Grade 7 Mathematics that matches the common curriculum (product number 311069) has been completed. The package includes seven modules and assignment booklets. There is a separate Learning Facilitator's Manual (product number 311035). Both may be ordered from the LRDC.

The materials for Mathematics 8 and Mathematics 9 are currently being developed and will be available for the 1997-98 school year.

### **Math 10 Beta CAI Program**

The Math 10 Beta Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) program is available for beta testing.

CAI mathematics programs are Computer Assisted courseware that provide self-paced interactive lessons containing instruction, examples, questions and self-administered tests. This courseware can be used on stand-alone or networked Macintosh microcomputers. The CAI programs address all student outcomes of the Alberta Mathematics Program of Studies. Some additional student outcomes are covered.

Beta software is prereleased software. Our CAI products go through three major releases: alpha, beta and final (production) version. The alpha release is internal developmental software. The beta release (or prerelease) is provided to selected sites for testing of the software. The production version is released after corrections and other enhancements

have been made to the beta version.

If you are interested in becoming a Math 10 beta tester contact the Instructional Technology and Media Unit, Alberta Distance Learning Centre, Box 4000, Barrhead T7N 1P4.

### **Question Banks**

Alberta Education provides question banks for many junior and secondary school subjects for use with LXR TEST software. LXR TEST is a question storage and retrieval system available for both Macintosh and Windows. Using our question banks and LXR TEST, production of randomly generated or completely customized tests is both quick and easy. Teachers appreciate the full solutions included in our questions banks. The Scoring Edition of LXR TEST includes scoring and analyzing features.

Current question banks contain over 40,000 items. The following is a list of Mathematics banks available including the approximate number of questions in each bank: Math 10 (2616), Math 13 (1735), Math 20 (1786), Math 20–French (832), Math 23 (880), Math 30 (1755), Math 31 (1127) and Math 33 (1198).

The Alberta Distance Learning Centre Question Bank CD-ROM is available from LRDC, 12360 142 Street NW, Edmonton T5L 4X9; phone 427-2767, fax 422-9750. The Buyer's Guide Number is 324153 (Macintosh) or 324161 (Windows). The cost to educators or individuals in Alberta and NWT is \$35 plus GST.

### **Curriculum Standards Branch**

An excellent publication that teachers should use with parents entitled "Working Together in Mathematics Education" is now available. The booklet provides an overview of the new mathematics curriculum and shows some of the knowledge, skills and attitudes students are expected to learn. It presents some ways parents and others can support student learning in mathematics. For more information, contact Dennis Belyk, acting assistant director, Math/Science Unit, Curriculum Standards Branch, Alberta Education, Devonian Building, West Tower, 11160 Jasper Avenue NW, Edmonton T5K 0L2; phone 422-3216 or fax 422-3745.

This, and other curriculum handbooks for parents, may be purchased at cost from the LRDC.

in packages of 20 for \$15. It may be viewed at and downloaded from the Alberta Education Web site, (Parents section) at <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca>. ▲

—Kathleen Melville

## **Criteria for Awarding Grants for MCATA Sponsored Institutes**

**G**rant applications from members of MCATA up to a maximum of \$500 must be made in writing to the Conference Director, MCATA. They must be received by December 1 or May 1, in order to be considered for the following six-month period. Grant applications will be approved for mathematics education initiatives which are in support of

- current learning and teaching practices or
- current priorities as outlined by or through Alberta Education, local school districts, the MCATA, NCTM, ATA or other reputable educational associations.

- The institutes/projects will be judged on
- the nature of the project
  - the audience which will participate or benefit and
  - diversity in regional development opportunities for teachers.

Grants are to be used for professional development, research directed toward mathematics education, or other initiatives which promote and enhance mathematics education in the province. They are intended to be applied directly to costs incurred in facilitating professional development opportunities. These include defraying the costs of presenters and participants to attend, and print materials required to facilitate the professional development. Grants shall be used for the purchase of equipment and/or capital expenditures or honoraria.

Special consideration will be given to first-time applicants.

Upon completion of the institute/project, a written summary must be sent to the MCATA Conference Director. Successful applicants must be willing to share their results and experiences via the *Mathematics Council Newsletter*, mini-conferences

and/or conferences.

Acknowledgement regarding funding from MCATA, should be made where appropriate.

Applications will be considered by the MCATA executive at the January and June meetings each year. Applicants will be notified of the decision by February 15 (for the December 1 applications) and June 15 (for the May 1 applications).

*Application forms are available from the MCATA Conference Director. ▲*

—Donna Chanasyk

## Keep Us Posted!

As members of the MCATA executive, we need to communicate with mathematics teachers in Alberta to ensure that they are aware of events and activities that are occurring relevant to their work. We ask that you send information that you would like included in the *Mathematics Council Newsletter*—from both your geographic and grade levels.

**Deadlines:** The newsletter will be printed five times this year, and (depending upon printing time) will be distributed in the third or fourth week of October, December, February, April and June. Material must be submitted by the last day of the *previous* month to be included.

## Upcoming Events/Activities

**Description:** Junior High School Mathematics Miniconference  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 1997  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Approximately \$25/person—includes lunch  
**Location:** Calgary  
**Contact:** Linda Brost  
**Phone:** 294-8616  
**Fax:** 294-6301  
**E-mail:** lgbrost@cbe.ab.ca

More information will be sent to Calgary and surrounding area schools in early January. Mark your calendars!

## Past or Ongoing Professional Development Opportunities

Were you involved in—or are you involved in—a professional development session/activity? Share with the larger mathematics community how it went or how it is going.

**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher/Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fax this information to Linda Brost at 294-6301, or e-mail it to her at lgbrost@cbe.ab.ca by *November 29, January 31, March 31 or May 30. ▲*

—Linda Brost

## Conferences

- ☛ 1997 NCTM Conference will be held in Minneapolis, April 17–10. An excellent program has been organized.
- ☛ 1998 NCTM Regional Conference, Calgary, October 22–24, 1998. This super conference will have numerous sessions to meet everyone's interests, including general and extended sessions, a math fair, poster sessions, mini-courses, forums and a conference within a conference.

The program committee is made up of the following people: Cynthia Ballhiem (cochair), Dick Kopan (cochair), Sandra Unrau, Marg McSween, Sue Harding, Mike Fulton, Ron Coleburn, Evelyn Sawicki, Pauline Clark, Olive Chapman and Peter Schill.

How about getting involved as a presenter? Please see attached speaker proposal form. ▲