From the Editor

Welcome back to another school year! I hope that you are well rested and prepared for the challenge of meeting a new group of students with all their enthusiam and idiosyncrasies.

Your MCATA executive is all fired up about the math conference "Mathematics in Harmony with the New Millennium," to be held in Jasper October 21–23, 1999. An excellent program, professionally and socially has been arranged. However it can really only be a success if you are there and prepared to participate.

Something new this year will be the Games Emporium. I am sure that all of you have used an enjoyable and interesting mathematics-related game. It would be great if you could share the game with your colleagues. To do so, please contact Sandra Unrau at sunrau@cbe.ab.ca. We really need you if this new endeavor is to be a success.

We'll see you in Jasper! ▲

—*Art Jorgensen*

Visit the MCATA Web site at http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca.

MCATA Annual Conference
October 21–23, 1999
Jasper Park Lodge

For registration forms and a current program, check our Web site at http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca.

Registration includes

★ approximately 80 sessions of interest to teachers at all levels;

★ a Thursday-evening presentation by a Jasper naturalist, followed by a wine and cheese;

★ a Friday morning breakfast followed by a presentation by keynote speaker Dr. Carole Greenes, "Identifying Mathematically Promising Students and Developing Their Talents;

★ a Saturday lunch along with a presentation by Phil Radomsky, "The Magic of Teaching"; and

★ a closing presentation by Dr. Dale Burnett, "Mathematics and Thought: Where Are We After 4.5 Billion Years and Where Are Going?"

Take advantage of the math games session. Bring your favorite math game to share with others.

Registration forms are available from Patricia Chichak at (780) 450-1813.

For reservations, contact the Jasper Park Lodge (1-800-465-7547). Indicate that you want the Math Council rate.

Come for an exciting time! ▲

From the President's Pen

Welcome to the 1999–2000 school year. While getting my classroom ready for the opening of school, I came across "The Ten Commandments of Studying Mathematics" and wondered what "The Ten Commandments of Teaching Mathematics" might look like. Here is my offering (borrowing liberally from the NCTM Professional Standards document). It is clear that on the seventh day, we will all have to rest!

The Ten Commandments of Teaching Mathematics

1. *Thou shalt pose worthwhile mathematical tasks and these shall stimulate students to make connections, call for problem formulation, promote communication about mathematics and represent mathematics as an ongoing human activity.*

2. *Thou shalt listen to thy students and display sensitivity to them while drawing on their diverse backgrounds and dispositions.*

3. *Thou shalt orchestrate discourse and ask students to clarify and justify their ideas orally and in writing.*

4. *Thou shalt use tools to enhance the understanding of mathematics, and these include textbooks, curriculum documents, computers, calculators, manipulatives, pictures, diagrams, metaphors, analogies and stories.*

5. *Thou shalt create a learning environment and respect and value students' ways of thinking and use physical space and materials in a way that facilitates learning.*

6. *Thou shalt expect students to work independently and collaboratively to make sense of mathematics and encourage them to take intellectual risks by formulating conjectures.*

7. *Thou shalt display a sense of mathematical competence and through professional development activities increase subject matter knowledge and pedagogical practices.*

8. *Thou shalt engage in an ongoing analysis of teaching and learning and examine the effects of tasks, tools and discourse.*

9. *Thou shalt assess students' understanding of mathematics by using a variety of techniques and try to catch students doing things right.*

10. *Thou shalt take an active role in thine own professional development and participate in school-, district-, provincial- and MCATA-sponsored activities such as this year's Jasper conference.*

And thou shalt have thy reward for truly thou shalt have taught mathematics. ▲

—Cynthia Ballheim

Membership Director's Report

Congratulations to the following members who have won prizes for renewing their memberships:

January–March 1999

First Prize: One MCATA Conference 1999 Registration—Tim Gartke, Edmonton
Second Prize: One-Year Membership to MCATA—Susan Dow, Vulcan
Third Prize: $250 NCTM Gift Certificate to be redeemed through MCATA—Anton Hlede, Calgary

April–June 1999 Winners

First Prize: One MCATA 1999 Conference Registration—Sonia Khera, Edmonton
Second Prize: One-Year Membership to MCATA—Victoria McCaig, Medicine Hat
Third Prize: $25 NCTM Gift Certificate to be redeemed through MCATA—Peter Schill, Airdrie
Early, Early Bird Draw: One night's accommodation at Jasper Park Lodge—Cora Mazur, St. Albert ▲

NCTM News

To help offset the exchange rate with the U.S. dollar, NCTM has agreed to limit the exchange rate paid by Canadians. NCTM membership fees have been capped at a maximum of 1.25 times the membership fees paid in U.S. dollars, if paid by cash or cheque. For example, 1999 NCTM membership fees: $62 × 1.25 = $77 Can.

▸ NCTM Annual, April 13–15, 2000, Chicago
▸ NCTM Canadian Regional, July 19–20, 2000, Halifax

Canadian NCTM Leadership Conference

I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian NCTM Leadership Conference in Toronto July 8–10. A number of topics were covered.

A concern expressed was the need for more Canadian content and speakers at NCTM-sponsored events. As a Canadian member of NCTM, you can help to ensure that a healthy dose of Canadian content is available by volunteering to speak at the next Regional in Halifax July 19–22, 2000.

Several guidelines aimed at providing Canadian host groups more flexibility in sponsoring NCTM conferences are currently before committee. These include allowing registration to be made in Canadian funds, allowing the Canadian host to collect registrations (rather than the current policy of having all registrations sent to Virginia), allowing the host group to publish their own conference booklets and allowing the host group the ability to reduce rates for exhibitors.

NCTM's current drive is to provide more services online. The practice of providing speaker information, abstracts and actual presentation materials on the Web site will continue and hopefully be expanded this year. Specific journals and publications will be placed online and eventually the aim is to have all publications available through Internet subscriptions. Getting information to teachers is a major concern. Looking for ways to make information available at the touch of a keypad is one way to keep Canadian members connected. Publications of particular interest may be the new Assessment Addenda series as well as a new set of "Illumination." These are rich activities to tie to each of the standards. The first, entitled "Connections" is now available and "Algebra" will soon be ready as well. April 2000 is the anticipated date for release of the revised "Principles and Standards" document. If you can't be in Chicago, watch for it on the Web site. ▲

—Geri Lorway

Grants

$500 grants are available from MCATA. Deadlines for applications are December 1 and May 1 of each year. Criteria and application forms are available from Sandra Unrau at sunrau@cbe.ab.ca.

Be a Winner in the Year 2000

Year 2000 has been declared the World Mathematical Year (WMY). To promote WMY 2000, MCATA is looking for a unique catchy mathematical phrase to be used on promotional items, such as mugs, water bottles, T-shirts and pencils.

Rules
- ◆ The phrase must be simple and limited to two lines.
- ◆ The design with/without words must be simple in two colors.
- ◆ Only original work is to be submitted; it will not be returned.
- ◆ Submissions must be on 8½-by-11-inch white paper.
- ◆ The entry must be accompanied with a separate sheet of paper that includes your name, address, phone number and school name.

Prizes
Winning entries will receive $100. Judges' decisions are final. All winning entries will be the property of MCATA.

Deadline
Submit by January 1, 2000, to Sandra Unrau, 11 Hartford Place NW, Calgary T2K 2A9. ▲

NCTM Awards and Grants

The Mathematics Education Trust (MET) was established by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) to fund special projects that enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics. NCTM members can nominate candidates for the NCTM Lifetime Achievement Awards. The other awards are available through a competitive process based on proposals submitted by individual applicants. For additional information or an application, dial NCTM's toll-free Fax on Demand (FoD) service at 1-800-220-8483 and request the appropriate document number; call the NCTM at (703) 620-9840, ext. 2113; access NCTM's Web site: www.nctm.org/about.met; or e-mail infocentral@nctm.org. All 2000–2001 applications (except TOYOTA TIME) must be postmarked no later than December 1, 1999. ▲

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Mathematics Council
of The Alberta Teachers' Association

MCATA <u>NEWSLETTER</u> SURVEY
September, 1999

The Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association (MCATA) is attempting to collect information and data regarding the value of the newsletter to our members. MCATA asks for your cooperation in returning this questionnaire so we can respond to any desired changes in the newsletter. We realize answering this questionnaire will take time from your already busy schedule. The input you will be able to provide however is extremely valuable and greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Please check the following to reflect your current position (one only):

Kindergarten Teacher ☐   Primary Teacher (1-3) ☐

Division II Teacher (4-6) ☐   Division III Teacher (7-9) ☐

Division IV Teacher (10-12) ☐   School Based Administrator ☐

District Based Administrator ☐   Other (please specify) ☐

<u>Questionnaire</u>

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING

1. Do you read the MCATA newsletter?
   yes ☐   no ☐

2. Do you feel the information is appropriate?
   yes ☐   no ☐

3. Do you feel the information is timely?
   yes ☐   no ☐

4. Does a print form of the newsletter serve your needs?
   yes ☐   no ☐

5. Would an electronic form of the newsletter better suit your needs (i.e. Web page)?
   yes ☐   no ☐

6. If you had a choice, which form would you prefer, print or electronic? Why?
   print ☐   electronic ☐   both ☐

7. Do you feel the MCATA newsletter should be continued?
   yes ☐   no ☐

Affiliated with the National Council of
Teachers of Mathematics
NCTM

8. Would you be interested in contributing? If yes what topic(s).

     yes ☐   no ☐

9. MCATA currently publishes five newsletters each school year. Do you feel this number is sufficient? If not, how many would you suggest?

     yes ☐   no ☐

10. How often do you access the MCATA Web site? (www.MathTeachers.ab.ca)

     none ☐   once per week ☐   once per month ☐   other _____

11. What items/content do you expect would appear in a Specialist Council Newsletter?

12. Are there other issues or topics that the MCATA newsletter should be addressing?

13. What suggestions, if any, could you make regarding the format of our current newsletter?

Please return to: **George Ditto**
                          #102 2 14 St. NW
                          Calgary, AB T2N 1Z4
                          Fax: (403) 777-7229

If you are willing to contribute, please complete the following:

Name:
Address:
Telephone:
FAX:
e-mail: