

Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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

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From the Editor

You have recently received a form asking for nominations for MCATA table officer positions. Consider this request seriously. It would be a nice change to have an election; it puts the current executive in a very awkward position, always having to appoint people to these positions.

There are many among you who would make excellent table officers. Please nominate them. Being on the executive is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with influential people in the area of mathematics in the province, and keeps you abreast of what is going on in the field of mathematics. It is a great experience.

We are frequently looking for people to serve as directors. Being a director is an excellent introduction to the workings of MCATA. If you are interested in serving as a director, let a member of the executive know. We really do need your help. ▲

—Art Jorgensen

Volunteers Needed

From time to time, the executive could use some help in carrying out some of the jobs that need to be done. We are looking for people who would like to help—the number of years you have been teaching students math is not a criteria list! If you would like to help out in a little way or a big way, contact Donna Chanasyk at donnajc@connect.ab.ca, and describe the kinds of things you would like to do. Thanks! ▲

Remember to visit the MCATA Website at
<http://mathteachers.ab.ca>

**Year 2000: World Mathematical Year
Let's Celebrate!**
<http://wmy2000.math.jussieu.fr/>

From the President's Pen

Happy New Year!—and a very special new year it is for all of us! Did you know that the year 2000 has been declared World Mathematical Year? On May 6, 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Professor Jacques-Lions, President of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) declared it so. Mathematical societies from all over the world will be planning special events and activities in celebration of WMY 2000. MCATA is no different and has chosen to regard the year 2000 as an exceptional occasion to make mathematics visible throughout our province. It is fitting that WMY 2000 be the theme of our annual conference in Red Deer. Keep reading the MCATA newsletter and check out our Website to keep abreast of all of the WMY 2000 developments. ▲

—Cynthia Ballheim

Special Notes

Thank you to Geri Lorway who has served as an MCATA director and vice-president for several years.

The second vice-president on this year's executive is Elaine Manzer from Peace River. She can be contacted at manzere@prsd.ab.ca or (780) 624-4221.

There are many math inservices, sessions, workshops being offered by the Regional

Consortia. If you have not received any information regarding such sessions, be sure to contact your local regional consortium director.

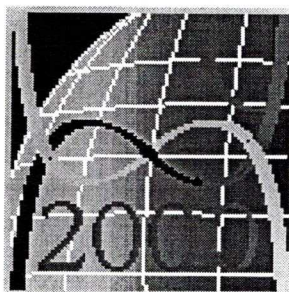
New materials for Grades 1–6, *Math to the Max—Teaching Elementary Mathematics* for Patterns and Relations are now available. For more information about these resources, please call Edmonton Public Schools at (780) 429-8122. To order these materials, contact the LRDC. ▲

—Donna Chansyk, MCATA Secretary

Important Dates/ Conferences

Jan. 1–Dec 31, 2000:	World Mathematics Year 2000
March 2000:	Nominations for 2000–2001 MCATA Executive
April 2000:	Elections for 2000–2001 MCATA Executive
April 13–15, 2000:	NCTM 78th Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
June 2–3, 2000:	MCATA Executive Meeting
June 30, 2000:	Deadline for Mathematics Educator Awards
July 19–22, 2000:	NCTM Regional Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia
October 26–28, 2000:	MCATA Math Specialist Conference, Red Deer ▲

—George Ditto



Jasper Conference Review

Thanks to you, the Jasper Conference proved to be an outstanding success. Over 600 people registered for the conference—one of the largest turnouts ever for a provincially organized conference.

The conference committee is to be commended for putting together an excellent program. There were over 70 sessions, workshops and keynote addresses. Exciting keynote presentations were given by Carole Greenness from Boston University, Phil Radomski from Calgary and Dale Burnett from the University of Lethbridge.

The Jasper Park Lodge proved to be an excellent venue for the conference. ▲

Be a Winner in the Year 2000

Year 2000 has been declared the World Mathematical Year (WMY). To promote WMY 2000, the Math Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association (MCATA) is looking for posters that can be used in K–12 classrooms to promote mathematics.

Rules

- ✎ The design with/without words cannot exceed four colors.
- ✎ Only original work is to be submitted, it will not be returned.
- ✎ Submissions must be on 11"×17" white paper.
- ✎ The entry must be accompanied with a separate sheet of paper that includes your name, address, phone number and school name if applicable.

Prizes

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

Deadline

Submit by **May 15, 2000**, to Lorraine Taylor, 10 Heather Place, Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 4L5. ▲

—Lorraine Taylor

Membership Director's Report

As of Friday, December 31, 1999, our membership totals 739. We are up 365 members since September 7, 1999. The breakdown of our membership is as follows:

- ▶ 639 regular members
- ▶ 25 student members
- ▶ 53 affiliated members
- ▶ 3 two-year memberships
- ▶ 19 three-year memberships

Our major increase in membership is due to the MCATA conference in Jasper. There were 438 regular memberships purchased, 8 student memberships and 1 three-year membership purchased at the conference.

Thank you to all of you who have been promoting membership in MCATA. Keep up the good work.

—Daryl M. J. Chichak, Membership Director

Congratulations!

The 1999, the Math Educator of the Year Awards were awarded to two very special people who have made significant contributions to mathematics education in Alberta and beyond:

- ▼ **Betty Morris**, who is currently the district mathematics consultant with the Edmonton Catholic Board
- ▼ **Gail Pashtar**, who currently teaches students mathematics in a Calgary high school

Because of their commitment to MCATA, the following math educators were recognized as Friends of MCATA:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| ▼ Jim Braaksma | ▼ Paula Bruner |
| ▼ George Ditto | ▼ Marion Florence |
| ▼ Bob Hart | ▼ Richard Kopan |
| ▼ Sandra Levesque | ▼ Craig Loewen |
| ▼ Ann McLennan | ▼ Bob Michie |
| ▼ Harry Morrison | ▼ Carol Murray |
| ▼ Jim Nielsen | ▼ Doug Parsons |
| ▼ Kerry Porter | ▼ Hugh Sanders |
| ▼ Liz Wood | |

—Cynthia Ballheim

The ATA Educational Trust

If you are involved in an exciting project that is of particular benefit to children, you might be able to access some funding from the Educational Trust.

The enclosed brochure outlines application procedures.

NCTM 78th Annual Meeting April 12–15, 2000, Chicago “Mathematics: Everyone’s Future”

Come and meet your NCTM colleagues in Chicago. To register online visit <http://www.nctm.org> or call toll free 1-800-235-7566.

Alberta educators that are speaking include Katherine Willson and Roberta McKay (U of A), Cynthia Ballheim (MCATA President) and Paul Williams (Red Deer College). ▲

—Graham Keogh

Thoughts for the Day

“Knowledge is gained by learning;
trust by doubt; skill by practice,
and love by love.”

—Thomas Szasz

“People can earn a living by accident;
but learning to live is an art.”

—Gail Work

“Success is how high you bounce
when you hit bottom.”

—General George Patton

Logo Contest

We would like to thank **Tuan Ham** of Calgary, and **Michelle Au** and **Zaire Alqishawi** of St. Albert for sending in their ideas for our last contest. We have thanked them on behalf of the Council and have awarded \$100 to each.

We hope to get many more entrees for our new poster contest. Teachers: Talk it up in your classes!

MCATA Executive 1999–2000

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