

# Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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

Volume 18

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April 2000

## From the Editor



### Mathematics Month: That's What April Is All About

For several years now, the NCTM has declared April Mathematics Month. It should provide all teachers who teach children mathematics with the incentive to highlight the importance of mathematics in today's culture. I am sure there are many things you can do to improve your students and to get them excited about mathematics. Here are some ideas:

- ✍ Hold a special mathematics fair.
- ✍ Host a parents day when parents can get involved with their children in the mathematics program.
- ✍ Initiate a special mathematics project.
- ✍ Take a mathematics field trip.
- ✍ Have each student bring in a problem of the day.

The NCTM has available a package of materials that you can order to help you with ideas.

We would appreciate hearing from you with regard to special activities that you have either done or plan on doing to promote mathematics and making it a more exciting subject. We will share the ideas we receive with your colleagues through the newsletter and *delta-K*.

Have a great "Mathematics Month." ▲

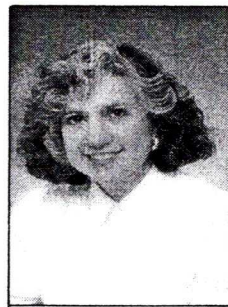
—Art Jorgensen

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## President's Message



On opening day of the NCTM's 78th Annual Meeting in Chicago, the Principles and Standards will be released to the public and to NCTM member for the first time. This document strengthens the foundation of the original document that so shook up our mathematical world some

10 years ago. It will be a historic event in many respects, but the inside word is that the Standards will only just "catch up" to the vision outlined in our very own Western Canadian Protocol!

As Albertans, we should be proud of the excellent mathematics education that we are providing for our students. The road has not been an easy one, but we are far ahead of most and need to take the time to see where we have been and to celebrate our many successes. There is no better time than World Mathematics Year to do something special with our students and our colleagues. I challenge you to share your many talents with MCATA by volunteering, speaking at our annual conference or writing articles for either the *delta-K* or our newsletter. MCATA NEEDS YOU! ▲

—Cynthia Ballheim

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

## Special Thanks to Craig Loewen

Special thanks go to Craig for producing an excellent monograph, *Making Math Sense in the Primary Classroom*.

All MCATA members should have received the monograph with the last issue of the journal. It contains many challenging and enjoyable activities for involving young children in mathematics.

For those wishing to purchase extra copies, they are available at Barnett House for a price of \$10. ▲

## IONCMASTE Dinner

The Imperial Oil National Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (IONCMASTE) Annual Dinner Meeting for Mathematics Teachers will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2000, at the Faculty Club, University of Alberta. The dinner will feature Dr. Lynn Gordon Calvert of the University of Alberta.

Mathematics teachers from the greater Edmonton area are invited to come together to share in good food, great company and valuable conversation about mathematics education.

4:00–5:30 p.m.	No Host Bar
5:30–6:30	Buffet Dinner
6:30–6:45	IONCMASTE announcements
6:45–7:30	Presentation by Dr. Lynn Gordon Calvert
7:30–8:00	Discussion
Cost:	\$18 (payable by May 5. No refunds after May 5.)

For more information, contact Elaine Simmt, 341 Education South, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2G5. ▲

—Donna Chanasyk

## World Mathematics Year 2000 (WMY2000)

The International Mathematical Union, supported by UNESCO, has declared this year the World Math Year 2000 (WMY2000). Information can be found at <http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~jarraud/wmy2000/ma2000.html>. ▲

—Donna Chanasyk

## \$500 Grants Available

Grants worth \$500 each are available from MCATA for special math projects. 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](mailto:sunrau@cbe.ab.ca). ▲



## ATA Educational Trust

The ATA Educational Trust provides funding for innovative classroom projects and educational research that result in teaching resources or final reports useful to other teachers. The Trust awards bursaries to encourage teachers to upgrade their education and improve their teaching skills. For more information and/or an application form, visit the ATA Website at <http://www.teachers.ab.ca>. Click on Services, then on Grants and Awards, then on ATA Educational Trust. ▲

—Donna Chanasyk

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily endorsed or promoted by the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association or the Alberta Teachers' Association.

## Errata

*Editor's Note: The article on the Logo Contest Winners printed in the February 2000 newsletter should have read as follows.*

We would like to thank Tuan Ham of Calgary, and Michelle Rau and Ziad Al Qishawi 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 entries for our new poster contest.

Teachers: Talk it up in your classes!

Rules for the new Logo Contest are available in the February 2000 newsletter. Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2000. Submissions are to be sent to Lorraine Taylor, 10 Heather Place, Lethbridge, AB T1H 4L5. ▲

## Important Dates/Conferences

April 18–25, 2000	NCTM 78th Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
April 2000	Elections for 2000–2001 MCATA Executive
April 2000	Math Education Month
May 5, 2000	Math Symposium, Royal Glenora Club, Edmonton
May 9, 2000	IONCMASTE—The Imperial Oil National Centre for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Annual Dinner Meeting for Mathematics Teachers, Faculty Club, University of Alberta
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, 2000	Math Leaders' Symposium, Red Deer
October 27–28, 2000	MCATA Annual Conference, Red Deer ▲

## Red Deer Conference

MCATA is holding the Annual Conference at the MCapri Centre in Red Deer, Alberta, on October 27–28, 2000. Unlike Jasper, Red Deer does not provide a mountain view or a beautiful lake; however, what we can offer is an excellent opportunity for you to share your expertise in mathematics education with your colleagues, and a time to get together with math educators from across the province. The theme of the conference is “2000: The World Mathematical Year.” As usual, we are having the Math Leaders' Symposium on the Thursday prior to the conference.

We wanted you to know we have Zalman Usiskin as a keynote speaker. Zalman is a pianist and a professor of math education at the University of Chicago. He will be speaking at our lunch session on Friday and making a presentation later in the afternoon.

If you are a speaker, you will receive a complimentary registration to the conference, which includes the keynote meal sessions, attendance at as many sessions as you can fit in and conversation with teachers from across the province. If I receive your proposal by the deadline, your name will be entered into the early-bird registration draw.

Overhead projectors will be provided, but you will need to supply any other special technology you may need in your session.

If you are interested in speaking, please return the enclosed proposal form ASAP. It is also available on the MCATA site at <http://mathteachers.ab.ca>.

We expect the registration forms to be in schools in June. ▲

—Sandra Unrau



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[www.mathteachers.ab.ca](http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca)

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## 2000 *The World Mathematical Year*

Mathematics Council of the ATA  
Speaker Proposal Form  
October 27 & 28, 2000  
Capri Center,  
Red Deer, Alberta

We invite you to submit a speaker proposal for our 2000 conference being held at the Capri Center. This K-12 conference is another perfect opportunity to get together with colleagues and get away from the city for a weekend. Join us by presenting a session, taking in some other sessions and relaxing with colleagues.

If you know of others who would like to submit a proposal to speak, please feel free to pass along the speaker proposal form.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: I ... II ... III ... IV

Available Friday Yes... No

Available Saturday Yes ... No

MCATA Member: Yes ... No

Length of Session: (please circle one) 60 minutes 120 minutes half day

Type of Session: workshop (tables) regular (lecture style)

Equipment needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session Title:

Short Description of Session: (please keep to under 200 characters)

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Submission deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup> 2000.

Please return completed form to:

Sandra Unrau .  
11 Hartford Place NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2K 2A9

Phone: 403-777-6390  
FAX: 403-777-6393

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