



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



Now that's commitment! Art Jorgensen has been our newsletter editor for as long as I can remember. Over the years, he has selected current, interesting material for Alberta math teachers to read. His style was newsy with short, fast-paced sentences and a conversational tone. Always keeping in mind the interests and limited time of the reader, Art's newsletters were

informative, accurate and, most of all, enjoyable.

Art, a special thanks for all that you have done for MCATA and a challenge to continue your involvement with the Council go out to you. We look forward to seeing you at the symposium, hearing you speak at our annual conferences and reading your articles in *delta-K* and the newsletter. Your legacy is great—I have a tough act to follow. ♣

—Cynthia Ballheim

Poster Contest Winners

To promote World Mathematical Year 2000, the MCATA sponsored a poster contest. We were looking for two posters to promote mathematics in K-12 classrooms. One poster will be used in *delta-K* and the other at our conference in October.

We would like to thank everyone who participated. Congratulations to the winners, who will each be awarded \$100: Alie Boos and Cortnie Bornyk, both from Msgr. J. S. Smith School in Calgary. Special thanks to their teacher, Susan Weisenberger, who sent in the entries. ♣

—Lorraine Taylor

From the President's Pen

Welcome to another school year! We have a great group on the executive this year, including several new members.

What does MCATA do? MCATA is involved in many activities and initiatives to support the mission of providing leadership to encourage better teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics. The executive affirmed the following list and will work to meet members' needs through these activities:

- ★ Annual conference
- ★ Ensuring diversity in executive members' representation from around the province and from different educational levels
- ★ Four executive meetings per year
- ★ Publications (*delta-K*, newsletter, website, monographs, position papers)
- ★ Advocacy (NCTM, ARA)
- ★ Mathematics Leaders' Symposium in cooperation with Alberta Learning
- ★ Promotions and contests
- ★ NCTM affiliation
- ★ Alberta Learning committee conference
- ★ Beginning teachers' conference
- ★ Sponsoring or supporting math camps, special projects and contests
- ★ Sending representatives to the ATA Summer Conference and seminars
- ★ Recognizing teachers with the Outstanding Mathematics Educator of the Year Award
- ★ Recognizing Friends of MCATA
- ★ Offering grants to members to support teaching and learning projects

We hope to see you at the annual conference! Drop into the Sorrento Room and give us your ideas and feedback. Tell us about your current issues, concerns or celebrations in mathematics education. We want to hear from you! ♣

—Sandra Unrau

MCATA Annual Conference

The 2000 MCATA Conference is fast approaching. Join your colleagues at the Capri Centre in Red Deer—less than two hours' driving time from either Calgary or Edmonton—October 27 and 28. There are nine sessions in each time block to choose from, with sessions ranging from Division 1 to Division 4, and a variety of displays. On Friday afternoon, take the opportunity to go on a nature walk at the Kerrywood Nature Centre to see how this can be incorporated into your math class (register at check-in). Friday night, we hope to see you at our movie night. On Saturday, in addition to the regular sessions, there will be workshops at Notre Dame High School on LXR test banking, Geometer's Sketchpad, PowerPoint lessons for pure mathematics in high school and developing online math courses. We also have some exciting keynote speakers: Zalman Usiskin from the University of Chicago and David Pimm from the University of Alberta.

The easiest way to register and get additional information is to visit our council website at www.mathteachers.ab.ca.

See you in Red Deer for "World Mathematical Year 2000"! ▲

—Graham Keogh

\$500 Grants

Grants worth \$500 each are available from MCATA for special math projects. Deadlines for application are December 1 and May 1 of each year. Criteria and application forms are available by e-mail from Graham Keogh at gkeogh@rdcrd.ab.ca (see executive list for complete contact information).

Gilbert Paterson Community School in Lethbridge received a grant last year. Staff participated in two days of math professional development to help teachers create assessment tools in line with the Western Canadian Protocol and to discuss assessment philosophy and methods.

Thank you for helping our staff hold two great math professional development days. ▲

—Deborah Constable

Mathematics Leaders' Symposium

The 16th Semi-Annual Alberta Mathematics Leaders' Symposium takes place Thursday, October 26, in the Monaco Room of the Capri Hotel in Red Deer. Highlights include a presentation by Harry Wagner and Sam Belcourt on "Implementing Applied Mathematics" and an update from Brian Perry on "K-9 Achievement in Mathematics."

Zalman Usiskin will be our keynote speaker. His "Is There a World-Wide Mathematics Curriculum?" presentation is sure to be a winner. We know that mathematics performances are being compared under the assumption that there is a relatively common mathematics curriculum worldwide. Dr. Usiskin will share with us to what extent this assumption is valid.

Plan to attend the symposium, sponsored jointly by MCATA and Alberta Learning. Phone Christine at (780) 422-3258 to register. Please note that the symposium is a separate event occurring one day before MCATA's 2000 conference in Red Deer and that conference registration does not include participation in this event. ▲

—Cynthia Ballheim and Katie Pallos-Haden

How Many Are We?

As of September 8, 2000, our membership totals 678, based on figures to the end of June. Membership totals have not yet been entered for the months of July and August. The breakdown of our membership is as follows:

- ▶ 544 regular members
- ▶ 16 student members
- ▶ 42 affiliate members
- ▶ 2 retired members
- ▶ 26 complimentary memberships
- ▶ 5 two-year memberships
- ▶ 26 three-year memberships
- ▶ 17 subscription memberships

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

—Daryl Chichak

Spinning Mathematics' Web

Looking for mathematics on the Internet? Try these popular sites:

- ♦ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (www.nctm.org)
- ♦ MCATA (www.mathteachers.ab.ca)
- ♦ Mathematrix(www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/7773/index.html)
- ♦ Tools for Understanding (www.ups.edu/community/tofu/)
- ♦ Eric Weisstein's World of Mathematics (mathworld.wolfram.com/)
- ♦ Torus Games (humber.northnet.org/weeks/TorusGames/)
- ♦ Images of Some Famous Mathematical Works(www.nsm.iup.edu/ma/gsstoudt/history/images/images.html) ▲

And Now We Are 20!

Several new members joined our executive last spring and would like to introduce themselves. Four introductions follow, with the rest to come in our next newsletter.

Shauna Boyce

I have been teaching mathematics at Spruce Grove Composite High School since 1990, but I am currently on my third year of a four-year secondment to the Learner Assessment Branch of Alberta Learning as the Applied Mathematics 30 examination manager. I am excited to be a member of the MCATA and look forward to working closely with this team of dedicated teachers.

Robert Wong

I am in my 14th year of teaching mathematics and am currently teaching at Vernon Barford Junior High School. I have served on the Gauss Contest committee for 9 years and on the Edmonton Junior High Math Contest committee for 11 years. I have been looking after my school's website since 1996 and have cowritten a unit on number patterns for The Learning Equation 7. I am thrilled to be a part of the MCATA executive.

Helen McIntyre

I taught mathematics and was very active in professional development within Foothills School Division No. 38 for many years. I spent last year working as the junior high professional development coordinator for the Calgary Regional Consortium. This year, I am working as the AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) project consultant for secondary mathematics in Rocky View School Division No. 41. I look forward to working with a group as talented and passionate about mathematics education as the MCATA executive.

Richard Kopan

Having served on the MCATA in the past, I have decided to join in on the activities of the Council again. I retired from the Calgary public school system in June 1997 and have just completed a three-year term on the board of directors of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. I am pleased to be back on the council executive again.

In the next newsletter issue, look for introductions from Evelyn Sawicki, Indy Lagu and Len Bonifacio and a special greeting from Michael Fulton, our NCTM Canadian director. ▲

Mark Your Calendar

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|----------------------|--|
| October 26, 2000 | Mathematics Leaders' Symposium, Red Deer |
| October 27-28, 2000 | MCATA Annual Conference, Red Deer |
| December 15, 2000 | <i>delta-K</i> submission deadline |
| February 22-24, 2001 | NCTM Western Regional Conference, Yakima, Washington |
| April 4-7, 2001 | 2001 NCTM Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida |
| October 26-28, 2001 | MCATA Annual Conference ▲ |

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