



Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

ISSN 0823-1117

Volume 2

Number 2

November 1983

From the Editor...

ALBERTA EDUCATION LIBRARY
4th FLOOR
11160 JASPER AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5K 0L2

NOV 8 1983

As we move into the 1980's, it is likely time that we who have as our main responsibility the teaching of mathematics to children take a serious look at the areas of concern and where emphasis should be placed.

The N.C.T.M. has given these matters a great deal of study, and has come up with some specific recommendations:

- THAT
- (1) problem solving be the focus of school mathematics in the 1980's;
 - (2) basic skills in mathematics be defined to encompass more than computational facility;
 - (3) mathematics programs take full advantage of the power of calculators and computers at all grade levels;
 - (4) stringent standards of both effectiveness and efficiency be applied to the teaching of mathematics;
 - (5) the success of mathematics programs and student learning be evaluated by a wider range of measures than conventional testing;
 - (6) more mathematics study be required for all students, and a flexible curriculum with a greater range of options be designed to accommodate the diverse needs of the student population;

- (7) mathematics teachers demand of themselves and their colleagues a high level of professionalism;
- (8) public support for mathematics instruction be raised to a level commensurate with the importance of mathematical understanding to individuals and society.

Obviously these recommendations throw out a challenge to the public, the students, and to us as professionals in particular. Are we up to this challenge? □

What's New?

Canada's Consumer Price Index A Teaching Kit

Statistics Canada, \$29.95

Ready in September 1983, this package, reviewed by teachers in every province, provides up-to-date information on how this important index is calculated and how it is used by government, business, labour, and individuals. Included are a simple text, teachers' notes, two full-colour posters, and ten transparencies, as well as student worksheets and an outline for a term-long class project.

The kit serves as a good introduction to statistics, including collection of data, maintenance of data quality, indexing and time-series concepts.

For more information, please write to: Canada's Consumer Price Index - A Teaching Kit, Business, Provincial and Municipal Relations, 10th Floor, R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

MCATA Newsletter is published several times yearly by The Alberta Teachers' Association for the Mathematics Council. EDITOR: Dr. Arthur Jorgensen, 4912 - 12 Avenue, Edson, Alberta T0E 0P0. EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION SERVICES: Central Word Services Staff, ATA. Address all correspondence to the editor. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of either the council or the Association. Copyright © 1983 The Alberta Teachers' Association, 11010 - 142 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1. Any reproduction in whole or in part without prior written consent of the Association is prohibited.

Something to Think About

Have you thought about joining the N.C.T.M.? The N.C.T.M. publications the Arithmetic Teacher and the Mathematics Teacher are two of the best current publications for teachers of mathematics. They are always full of interesting ideas and articles which can help you in working with the students. The N.C.T.M. also has numerous other publications which are available at reduced costs to members.

If you do not feel prepared to become an active member, try to encourage your school administrator to take out an institutional membership in order that these magazines can be made available in the school library.

The Arithmetic Teacher (ISSN 0004-136X), an official journal of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, is published monthly, September through May, at 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091. Dues for individual membership in the Council are \$30.00 (\$15.00 for students). For an additional \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students), an individual member can also receive the Mathematics Teacher, the other official journal of the Council. The institutional membership rate for one journal is \$36.00. For mailing outside the United States, add \$5.00 for the first journal per membership and \$2.50 for each additional one. Life and retired membership information is available from the N.C.T.M. Headquarters Office. Dues support the development, coordination, and delivery of Council services, including \$10.00 for each Arithmetic Teacher and Mathematics Teacher subscription, and \$2.00 for an N.C.T.M. News Bulletin subscription.

Modern Math "Daffynitions"

- Array: Christmas vacation.
- Closure: The last day of school.
- Rational Number: A four-day week.
- Infinite number: Children in your class.
- Commutative: Block Party.

PROBLEM CORNER



The calendar can serve as a source of a variety of interesting activities to reinforce the mathematical skills for operating with whole numbers.

One such activity might be having small groups find the answer to the following problems. Arrange for each group to put their answers on the board. When answers differ, have each group go back and check their work.

- A. What is the sum of numbers represented by the numbers in each Sunday of January? February?... December?
- B. Find the sum of all the first Saturdays in each month.
- C. What is the sum of numbers represented by the following holidays: New Year's Day, St. Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Canada Day?
- D. Add all the numbers in a particular month, and then subtract the holidays. Example: after adding the days in February, subtract Groundhog Day and St. Valentine's Day.

□