Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

President's Message

Summer has flown by far too quickly. I have been reminded of this by my capable newsletter editor.

For most of my summer, I have tried not to think about math. I have been only partially successful—you can take a teacher away from math for summer vacation, but apparently you can't take the math out of the teacher.

The majority of the math I looked at this summer was the NCTM news brief that pops up on my e-mail daily. The major theme that struck a chord with me was the number of summer programs designed to help students retain math learning from the previous school year. Summer programs for children have come a long way from going to camp for a week and learning how to get along with others, participating in outdoor pursuits and using math skills in practical, authentic ways. Instead of having students participate in structured summer math programs, I suggest that we make every attempt to allow children to be children and enjoy the summer playing and having a break from curriculum learning. Let's strive to make math authentic in the kid world, not an extension of classroom learning over the summer. Students, just like teachers, need a break to relax, rejuvenate and get ready for the fall school session.

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and I wish you the best during the new school year.

As always, "Do math and you can do anything."

Marj Farris

MCATA Awards and Grants Director Carmen Wasylynuik (right) presents an award to Gillian Kabarchuk for her achievement in the 2013 Edmonton Junior High Math Contest.

TERM Meeting

Teachers of Mathematics in the Edmonton Region (TERM) will meet on October 7 and December 3, at Paul Kane High School, in St Albert, at 5 PM in Room 224 (on the north side of the building). For more information, please send a message to donnajc@telus.net.

From the Editor's Laptop

I joined the MCATA executive three years ago as the Art Jorgensen Chair Award recipient. Sadly, there is no recipient this year—largely due, it seems, to lack of knowledge of the existence of this award. So, math teachers, we are asking for your help in spreading the news; please tell your student teachers about this award. To help you convince them to apply, here's a little about my experience with the award.

Truthfully, when I applied for this award I had absolutely no idea what I was getting into. Carmen Wasylynuik (MCATA's director of awards and grants) just happened to be one of the math teachers in the high school where I was doing my practicum. She came to me one day and told me about this great award and that I really should I apply for it, because I would get so much out of it. So I read the criteria:

> The recipient of this award must be enrolled in a degree program in a faculty of education in Alberta. The recipient will be selected on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence and a clear commitment to mathematics education in either
> • specialization in mathematics at the secondary level; or
> • a keen interest and desire to expand mathematics knowledge at the elementary level.

As a math major, this was easily me, so I applied. Lo and behold, I became the next recipient.

Then, on to learn about what I would receive:
• A one-year term on the MCATA executive, with expenses paid to attend executive meetings (as per article 3.4 of the MCATA handbook)
• A one-year membership in MCATA and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
• An invitation to attend one MCATA conference with appropriate expenses paid, subject to the approval of the executive committee (eg, substitute teacher, one night accommodation, travel and meals not included in the conference registration)

In reality, this meant being able to attend meetings of some of the top mathematical minds in the province as they dealt with current issues in mathematics education. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn what was actually going on in the mathematics world, and not just the theorizing in a postsecondary classroom. It meant access to different scholarly documents and other great resources in the form of MCATA's own publications (this newsletter and *Delta-K*) as well as the resources available through the NCTM. And best of all, I could attend an amazing conference free of charge. The MCATA conference is a two-day event in which you can share in the expertise of world mathematical leaders and everyday classroom teachers. Talk about a motivational couple of days!

And the job of the winner? To represent new teachers—those just exiting or near exiting university and joining the high-speed rat race of teaching.

Please spread the word about this rewarding opportunity.

Karen Bouwman

Contest Winners

Edmonton Junior High Mathematics Contest 2013

The committee is pleased to announce that more than 800 Edmonton Public and Catholic students participated in this year's contest. The top 50 students, their parents and teachers were invited to an awards banquet on May 29.

Team Winners

1st Place—Vernon Barford—Steven Xia, Andrew Ho, Dennis Situ
2nd Place—Grandview Heights—Jessica Wang, Rachel Wang, Shuling Yang
3rd Place—T D Baker—Vidhy Patel, Vihangi Mehta, Humza Hashmi

Individual Winners

1st Place—Steven Xia, Vernon Barford
2nd Place—Andrew Ho, Vernon Barford
3rd Place (tie)—Vidhy Patel, T D Baker and Dennis Situ, Vernon Barford

For a copy of the contest and solution, please visit www.mathteachers.ab.ca.

Alberta High School Mathematics Competition Winners

Team Winners

1st Place—Old Scona Academic High School, Edmonton—Weilian Chu, Michael Ru and D Li/L Long/H Song, managed by Mr Ihor Lytviak
2nd Place—Western Canada High School, Calgary—Fengwei Tian, Hanjie Zhu and Tianyi Chen, managed by Ms Renata Delisle
3rd Place—Westmount Charter School, Calgary—Jeffrey Zhou, Ethan White and Joyce Li, managed by Ms Sandy Miller

Individual Winners

1st Place—Weilian Chu, Old Scona Academic High School, Edmonton; accorded title of 2012/13 CRC Scholar
2nd Place—Fengwei Tian, Western Canada High School, Calgary
3rd Place—Michael Ru, Old Scona Academic High School, Edmonton

"Math Is …???"
2013 MCATA Conference

Providing Leadership to Encourage the Continuing Enhancement of Teaching, Learning and Understanding Mathematics

River Cree Casino and Resort, Enoch, Alberta

This year's conference features two world-renowned keynote speakers, Karim Ani and David Moursund.

Karim Ani taught Grade 8 math in Virginia and New York City and was later a middle school math coach. He has degrees from Stanford University and University of Virginia and was named in *Education Week* as one of the nation's top young leaders transforming education. If Karim woke up and discovered that he was the last person on Earth, he'd write a math lesson about it.

David Moursund founded the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), established ISTE's flagship publication, *Learning and Leading with Technology,* and headed the organization for 19 years. Dr Moursund has authored or coauthored more than 60 academic books and hundreds of articles, and has presented at hundreds of conferences. After retiring, he founded Information Age Education (IAE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving teaching and learning by people of all ages throughout the world. IAE provides a wide range of free teacher education materials that are available online at http://iae-pedia.org.

In addition, the conference provides an opportunity to hear from dozens of local mathematics teachers and leaders who share ideas for enriching your mathematics program. Please plan to join us at this year's conference. Registration is available at www.mathteachers.ab.ca.

Plan to join us for the **Mathematics Leaders Symposium** on **October 17** at River Cree prior to the conference. Dr Olive Chapman, from the University of Calgary, will present on "Teaching Mathematics to Engaged Thinkers."

Teaching Mathematics to Engaged Thinkers

Alberta Education's *Framework for Student Learning* outlines the relationships among literacy, numeracy, competencies and subject/discipline areas that are essential for students to become engaged thinkers. Teachers need to consider what mathematical processes, numeracy skills and competencies students need to demonstrate to be proficient in mathematics. How are these constructs related? What do they mean for the teaching and learning of mathematics in a 21st-century context? This symposium will help participants unpack these ideas from the perspective of the classroom teacher. Participants will be involved in discussion and practical hands-on activities as they explore the "attitudes, skills and knowledge that contribute to students becoming engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit."

Reminder: Bring back <u>any</u> MCATA conference bag to the 2013 conference for a special gift.

Early-Bird Registration Winners

Although it is too late to try for this year, we want to remind everyone that there is a perk to signing up for the MCATA conference early. You could win your hotel stay free for the conference. The 2012 lucky winners were Early Early Bird **Michelle Cornish** and Early Bird **Susan Gale**. The 2013 Early Early Bird winner is **Geri Ann LaFleur**. Congratulations! The name of the 2013 Early Bird winner will be drawn in a couple of weeks.

MCATA Grants

MCATA grants are available to teachers and coordinators as part of professional development, for research into math education, or for other math initiatives that promote and enhance mathematics education throughout the province. These grants help fund projects that promote the education of students and educators in the math field. Grants of up to $500 are awarded twice each year; applications should contain the nature of the project, specify the audience participating and benefitting, and explain how the project incorporates diversity in regional development opportunities for teachers. The grants are intended to help cover the cost of professional development.

For more information or an application, please visit our webpage at www.mathteachers.ab.ca/mcata_grants .htm or contact the director of awards and grants, Carmen Wasylynuik, at carmenbt@telus.net.

Executive Summary of May 2013 Meeting

The major topics of discussion were the fall symposium and conference and related decisions; other items discussed were a letter to NCTM requesting that the annual leadership conference not be held the last week of June, a draft of the MCATA election procedures and a draft of the MCATA expense claim form. There was no need for an election for 2013/13 for treasurer and vice-president (professional development) because the incumbents, Mark Mercer for treasurer and Rod Lowry for vice-president, were the only nominations received. The next meeting dates are September 6–7, December 6–7, January 10–11, 2014, and May 2–3, 2014.

Alberta Education Message

With the implementation of the 30-level mathematics courses last year, 2013/14 is the first year in the last six that no new mathematics courses are being implemented. Students who have taken the revised program for all three high school courses are entering postsecondary studies or the workforce this fall, but it is interesting to note that the first students who have taken the revised programs throughout kindergarten to Grade 12 will not graduate until 2021! Many thanks to all of you for the expertise and hard work that you continue to put in to the successful implementation of the mathematics programs of study.

Standards Documents for Nondiploma Exam Courses

Revised *Outcomes with Assessment Standards* documents for the three 20-level mathematics courses have been posted on our webpage in both English and French. These documents now include correlated examples from the authorized resources for each course. This year the Mathematics 30-3 standards document will be revised in collaboration with teachers from around the province who have taught the course. The *Outcomes with Assessment Standards* documents for all nondiploma exam courses can be accessed through our webpage at http://education.alberta.ca/math.

Provincial Assessment News

Based on feedback at standards confirmation for the January 2013 diploma examinations, the *Assessment Standards and Exemplars* for both Mathematics 30-1 and Mathematics 30-2 were updated in both English and French. Teachers are encouraged to review these documents, along with the "Commentary to the First Year" section in the information bulletins for each course that they are teaching. These documents can be found online at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/exambulletins.aspx.

Teachers may also wish to refer to the Mathematics 30-2 Released Items at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/releaseditems-.aspx; this document contains the Mathematics 30-2 January 2013 diploma examination, which is also posted on Quest A+. The Mathematics 30-2 year-end practice test on Quest A+ now includes buttons that provide students with feedback on each alternative for a multiple-choice question as well as hints for each numerical-response question. This feature is available in both English and French. For Mathematics 30-1, both topic and year-end field tests will be available for both semesters. Please check the Mathematics 30-1 information bulletin for more information.

Beginning in the 2013/14 school year, all mathematics and science field tests will be offered exclusively through an enhanced Quest A+ online delivery system rather than in paper format. This will allow teachers more flexibility in selecting dates and times for their students to write a field test, and teachers will have a 24-hour window to peruse the field test. Teachers will also receive data on how their students performed on the field test, including the proportion that chose each alternative on the multiple-choice items and the proportion that left a numerical-response item blank. For more information about this policy change, please contact Tim Coates, director of diploma programs, or Dan Karas, director of examination administration, at 780-427-0010.

French Resources

French Mathematics Digital Interactive Dictionary for Grades 3–6

The resource *Dictionnaire mathématique CEC jeunesse* is available on LearnAlberta for students and teachers. This resource contains many tools and functionalities, including instructional videos, in-text links to definitions, text browsing, personal bookmarks, and the ability to make notes and highlight information. Each user needs a personal code, which can be obtained from LearnAlberta. Users will need to know the LearnAlberta user name and password from their school jurisdiction in order to obtain a code. If teachers want to obtain codes for their entire class, they need to register under a personal teacher account. For more information please contact Diane Stobbe, team leader Mathematics K–12 (French Language Education Services) at diane.stobbe@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-7489. To be connected toll-free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000.

MATHEMATICS COUNCIL THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Math is...???

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 18-19, 2013
Registration Begins Thursday Evening October 17, 2013
EDMONTON MARRIOTT at RIVER CREE RESORT
300 East Lapotac Blvd, Edmonton, Alberta

For further information and ongoing updates, visit www.mathteachers.ab.ca

MCATA *is the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association and its mission is to provide leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding.*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

ALL REGISTRATION IS DONE ON LINE AND YOU CAN PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD!

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AT THE MCATA WEBSITE
www.mathteachers.ab.ca

Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Code _____

Phone: (home) _____ (school) _____ (fax) _____

School Name: _____ Teaching Certificate #: _____

Email: _____

In registering for this specialist council conference, you are voluntarily providing your personal information and consenting to its collection, use and disclosure for all purposes connected with your attendance at this conference and future conferences & symposiums.

Grades Taught: ___ K-3 Div I, ___ 4-6 Div II, ___ 7-9 Div III, ___ 10-12 Div IV, ___ Post Secondary

---

Conference Fees:

You are entered in the Early Early Bird Draw if your registration is postmarked by **June 30, 2013** and the Early Bird Draw if your registration is postmarked by **September 16, 2013**. Draws are for one night's accommodation at The **EDMONTON MARRIOTT at RIVER CREE RESORT, ENOCH, ALBERTA**.

Early Registration (PAID by September 16th, 2013)
Non MCATA Member (includes a MCATA membership) $425 _____
Current MCATA Member (must be a member at the time
 of registration) $395 _____
Student (Undergraduate-provide copy of student ID) $200 _____
Retired MCATA Member $395 _____
Saturday Only Non-MCATA Member (includes MCATA
Membership) $195 _____
Saturday Only MCATA Member (must be a MCATA
member at time of registration). $165 _____

Late Registration (PAID after September 16th, 2013)
Non MCATA Member (includes MCATA membership) $450 _____
Current MCATA Member $420 _____
Student Member (Undergraduate) $225 _____
Retired MCATA Member $420 _____
Saturday Only Non-MCATA Member (includes MCATA
Membership) $220 _____
Saturday Only MCATA Member (must be a MCATA
member at time of registration). $190 _____

Persons not eligible for specialist council membership $800 _____
Central Office staff who did not elect active ATA membership cannot be members of specialist councils. The superintendent and deputy superintendent of school jurisdictions and teachers in direct charter, federal or private schools must be ATA associate members in order to qualify for specialist council membership. Questions? Call ATA at 780-447-9400 or 800-232-7208.

A conference fee includes Friday breakfast, lunch, Friday Night Social and Saturday breakfast. Saturday registration includes Saturday breakfast only.

Extra meal tickets Until October 5, 2013
Friday Breakfast $32 _____
Friday Lunch $35 _____
Saturday Breakfast $32 _____

Total Fees $_____

In making application for membership to MCATA, you are voluntarily providing your personal information and consenting to its collection, use and disclosure for all purposes connected with your participation as a member of the Mathematics council.

Bring your MCATA bag from last year to receive a bonus gift.

Method of Payment:
MCATA now accepts credit cards. We do not accept School PO's or Board P.O's. Payment may still be made by money order or cheque. No post dated cheques will be accepted. Registration must be accompanied by full payment. Please MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE to: **Math Council ATA.**

Conference Cancellation Policy
If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your registration, please cancel in writing by fax (780)469-0414 or mail (1826-51 Street, Edmonton, AB T6L 1K1) to the MCATA Conference Registrar prior to **October 1st, 2013**. A $50 administration fee will be levied on refunds issued prior to this date. No refunds will be issued after this date. NSF cheque fee: $20.00

Mail Conference Fees being paid by cheque to:
MCATA Conference 1826-51 Street, Edmonton, AB T6L 1K1.

Registration confirmation letters will be emailed or faxed to each participant It is also important that you indicate the grade/division you teach. Full program and speaker schedule will be supplied upon check in at the conference. A sample of the speaker list and session descriptions will be available on line www.mathteachers.ab.ca in September.

For further registration information, contact Patricia at (780)450-1813 or mathematicsconference@shaw.ca . All registration is done at the MCATA website www.mathteachers.ab.ca

Accommodation:

The EDMONTON MARRIOTT at RIVER CREE RESORT is holding a block of guestrooms.

Standard Single $154.00
Double $154.00
Triple $174.00
Quad $194.00

The Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort is holding a block of guestrooms at a special rate of $154.00 per night. This special rate does not include applicable taxes (currently 9.0%). For room availability, please book your reservation by calling 780-484-2121. **Use promotional code Math Council of the ATA**. The block will be held until **September 30, 2013**. Ensure you have made your own hotel reservations prior to this date. **Conference registration fee does not include accommodations.**

Math is...???

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 18-19, 2013
Registration Begins Thursday Evening October 17, 2013
EDMONTON MARRIOTT at RIVER CREE RESORT
300 East Lapotac Blvd, Edmonton, Alberta

Come join the Mathematics Council of the ATA in celebrating 52 years of providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics at our annual conference "Math **is ...???"** at the Edmonton Marriott at the River Cree Resort.

You will have an opportunity to pick up your conference registration package at the Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort conference registration desk from 7:00PM-10:00PM Thursday, October 17th, & from 7:00AM - 11:00AM Friday, October 18th, 2013. After that time, please go to the MCATA table in the display area for assistance.

In your registration package you will find your nametag. Wear your name tag at all times. It ensures your entrance to your chosen sessions. Your registration includes a ticket for the Friday Buffet Breakfast, Friday Lunch, and Saturday Buffet Breakfast.

The Math Council realizes that some of you are unable to attend the Friday portion of the conference. As a result, we are offering a Saturday only special rate which includes breakfast, a keynote speaker, and two Saturday sessions. The registration desk will be open on Saturday, October 19 from 7:00AM-9:00AM. After that time, please go to the MCATA table in the display area for assistance.

Conference session times are as follows:

Thursday, October 17, 2013	7:00PM-10:00PM	Registration Only
Friday, October 18, 2013	7:00AM-11:00AM	Registration
	7:45AM-8:30AM	Breakfast
	8:30AM-9:00AM	Opening Remarks
	9:00AM-10:00AM	Keynote Speaker
	10:15AM-12:15PM	Session #1
	12:15PM-1:00PM	Lunch
	1:15PM-2:15PM	Session #2
	2:30PM-3:30PM	Session #3
	3:45PM-4:45PM	AGM
	5:00PM-7:00PM	Social: Games Night to Follow
Saturday, October 19, 2013	7:00AM-9:00AM	Registration
	7:45AM-8:30AM	Breakfast
	8:30AM-9:00AM	Opening Remarks
	9:00AM-10:00AM	Keynote Speaker
	10:15AM-11:15AM	Session #4
	11:30AM-12:30PM	Session #5

For further information and ongoing updates, visit www.mathteachers.ab.ca