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Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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Mathematics Educator of the Year

The Mathematics Council sponsors an award program to recognize people who have made significant contributions to mathematics education in Alberta. Consider your colleagues and nominate someone who, you believe, would be an exemplary candidate. The guidelines and criteria are listed below. A nomination form appears on page 6 of this newsletter. Take time to nominate someone before summer activities begin.

Guidelines and Criteria

1. Award

- a. This award may be given annually and is to be presented at the annual conference of the Mathematics Council.
- b. The award shall be a plaque, inscribed with the title, year, and name of recipient.
- c. The recipient shall also receive an honorary life membership in the MCATA and a lapel pin.

2. Qualifications for Candidates

- a. The candidate shall have contributed distinguished, meritorious service in mathematics education. The criteria may include curriculum development, inservice, outstanding classroom teaching, and exemplary leadership.
- b. Executive officers of the Mathematics Council are not eligible during their term of office.

Focus on Louise Frame



Louise Frame is a vibrant and energetic individual with a varied and interesting career as an educator and administrator. Louise is currently a Grade 2 teacher and vice-principal at Deer Run Elementary School in Calgary. She is well known for her interest in mathematics education and for her active participation in school and community events.

An interest in the mountains and cross-country skiing made Calgary a natural choice for this former British Columbia resident. After starting her career in a rural area near Prince Rupert, Louise came to Calgary. Here, her interests soon expanded to include music, live theatre, golf, and hockey. One wonders how anyone involved in team-teaching projects, conducting workshops, teaching inservice classes, serving on provincial curriculum committees, and leading a teachers' centre could find time to pursue hobbies or other interests.

Louise was also employed by the University of Calgary as a university associate. This involved working with student teachers and co-operating teachers, and teaching courses relating to field experiences. The focus of her work is a belief in the importance of hands-on activities and the use of learning centres in the classroom.

Louise did undergraduate work in British Columbia and Alberta and obtained a master's degree from the University of Oregon. Her graduate work includes qualifications in curriculum and leadership.

The Mathematics Council has been very fortunate to have had Louise's dynamic leadership over the past six years. She is currently serving as vice-president of the Council and is president-elect for 1987-88. She is co-author of a recently published survey conducted for the Mathematics Council. The survey assessed the preparation and continuing education of mathematics teachers.

Reach for the Flame:

Practical and Enjoyable Olympics Activities

How many times have you been asked by a mathematics student a question such as: "When am I ever going to use this after high school?" When Deanna Binder, the editor-writer of the Olympics Kit, was presented with the opportunity of co-ordinating subject committees to write material, the main criterion for the kit was that the material be practical and enjoyable. The mathematics committee took up this challenge and developed activities that could be adapted for a variety of skill levels.

Most activities can be incorporated in your program either as a separate activity or as an enrichment unit, reinforcing the skills taught in that particular strand. Several activities involving measurement, graphing, and problem solving might take students a week or so to research, design, and complete, whereas others, such as the puzzle section, may be a one-class activity. The committee hopes that teachers will find this material appropriate, informative, and usable in the current year, the year of the Olympics.

With the Winter Olympic Games less than a year away, and enthusiasm building about Preview '88 events, now is the time to take advantage of the excitement and interest that are developing in students.

You may have students who are volunteers for some of the events. Enlist their support in developing an Olympics week in your class. Create Olympics bulletin boards using the Olympics logo as the focal point (see the Kit's Measurement section, p. 16). Use the Olympics trivia game in the elementary kit as a starting point. Students can research the activities in which their country will be participating, customs, and perhaps language. Organize a "Reach for the Flame" or "Go for the Gold" version of a "Reach for the Top" math competition within or between classes. Students can also research a budget for the games, including the costs of training, transportation, television rights, and construction of venues, and participation of major sponsors. Set up an Olympics venue in your class or in the school that can feature newspaper headlines and students' displays.

Mathematics is not an isolated subject. It can be creative, practical, and an opportunity for discovery. Each of these activities and many others can be done in your classes. What a wonderful opportunity for those of us living in Alberta to introduce into our classes the excitement of the XVth Winter Olympic Games! If you have any questions, suggestions, or successful activities to share, please contact at work in Calgary one of the presenters: Karen Balcombe (286-5156), Doug Parsons (284-3381), or Helen Clark (271-8420).

Election Results

In the March 1987 Mathematics Newsletter, I called for nominations to the executive for 1987-88. Having received only one nomination form for each position, I acclaim all positions filled:

President	Louise Frame, Calgary
Vice-President	Art Jorgensen, Edson
Secretary	Mary-Jo Maas, Fort Macleod
Treasurer	Dick Kopan, Calgary
Past President	Bob Michie, Calgary

The executive will appoint the remainder of the executive committee in September 1987.

Gary R. Hill
Past President

Computers in the Classroom

Secondary mathematics teachers in the Calgary system recently met to discuss the use of computers in mathematics. The participation of more than 70 teachers indicates a strong interest in this topic. Many practical and innovative uses of computers were shared. Dennis Ward related his experiences using a VCR to record computer-generated graphs for classroom use. Pam Bednar demonstrated mathematics fonts developed for commonly used printers and Mathematics 31 test banks. Francis Somerville distributed a set of computer assignments prepared for Mathematics 20/23 courses.

Other teachers shared their experiences of specific software packages, including CAI and graphing utilities. Activities included a problem-solving session led by Rich King using Logowriter and a computer applications package presented by Keith Molyneux. Other speakers were Kerry Porter, Marilyn Burgoyne, Ron Flaig, Clifton Baron, and Karen Gibling.

The Mathematics Council of
The Alberta Teachers' Association

presents

Quest for Quality

October 22 to 24, 1987
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta

Keynote Address by
Dr. Dale Drost
Consultant in Mathematics Education
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Lectures and Workshops on
Co-operative Learning
Estimation and Mental Computation
Learning Styles
Manipulatives
Winter Olympic Games
Problem Solving
Revised Junior High Curriculum
Technology and Mathematics
and much more

Registration information will be in the schools in September.
Plan to attend.

Mathematics Educator of the Year

Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

School Address: _____

Present Position: _____

Professional Involvements and Significant Contributions (attach résumé):

Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Award to be presented at the annual conference of the MCATA.

Mail before September 11, 1987, to:

Bob Michie
Chairperson
Award Selection Committee
149 Wimbledon Crescent SW
Calgary, Alberta
T3C 3J2.