



NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

APRIL 2009

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Dates to Remember

Grades 4 – 10 SMS Exams: Lesson 33 (May 11 to 14 in Ontario, and May 5th and 7th in Manitoba)

Grades 1 – 3 Exams: Lesson 37 (June 8 to 11 in Ontario, and June 2nd and 4th in Manitoba)

Awards Ceremony Week 39: Details to be announced.

Students' Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding accomplishments:

Zoe Beckerman (Gr.9): Zoe was champion of the children's 14 to 17 jumper classes in week 5 and reserve champion in the modified children's jumper in week 12 (a higher class) at the Winter Equestrian Circuit in Wellington, Florida.

Anthony Hua (Gr. 4): Anthony received a certificate of merit for superior achievement in the 2008-2009 Annual Grade 6 Mathematics League.

Douglas Lam (Gr. 6 Assistant Teacher): Douglas made it to the DECA competition in California which takes place at the beginning of May.

Zahara Mair (Gr. 5): Zahara plays first violin in the Runnymede Grade 6 string orchestra, which placed first in city wide Kiwanis Music Festival competition. The adjudicator announced their performance as, 'best performance I have heard in a long time' and they received 'a scorching hot mark of 90.'

Rebecca Mesburis (Gr. 4): Rebecca placed third in kata and sparring at her club's tournament and received her yellow belt.

Trevor Shirliff-Hinds (Gr. 4): Trevor was chosen as a Canadian Delegate to attend CISV (Children's International Summer Villages) in Oslo, Norway. He will be away for the month of July.

Arielle Silverberg (Gr. 3) and Orli Silverberg (Gr. 6): Arielle and Orli each won the Gold Award at the Kiwanis competition in their respective classes.

Evan Sue-A-Quan (Gr.3): Evan participated in the Kiwanis Music Competition - he achieved 1st place in the 11 years and under Concerto Class, and 3rd place in grade 9 Sonata Class for violin.

Students' Accomplishments Continued

Spirit of Math Competitions Honour Roll

GRADE ONE HONOUR ROLL:

Highest Score: Jacob Chan (19/20) from Markham West

Honour Roll: Candice Chow, Eric Dong, Hana Jamal, Sameer Jessa, Sophia Kara, Rehana Lalani, Kaiz Nanji, Kyle Sue-A-Quan, Jaiman Patel, Jiwon Park, Vinay Sharma, Paul Staadecker, Sarina Sukiani, Anisha Vatti

GRADE TWO HONOUR ROLL:

Highest Score: Larissa Ciotmonda from Mississauga West, Callum Kipin from High Park and David Min from Willowdale, all with a score of 20/20

Honour Roll: Dhana Abdo, Davis Angove, Anik Babul, Matthew Burnes, Adora Chan, Kristen Chang, Harrison Chiu, Jaime Chong, Meera Chopra, Rebecca Chu, Daniel Chua, Sarah Clements, Daniel Crosner, Jack Douglas, Sina Doustmohammodi, Ryan Dowie, Loi Duong, Jack Fernandes, William Fung, Nicholas Gin, Jalen Gu, Daniel Guoussev-Donskoi, Ruchira Gupta, Alysa Haji, Madeline Henriques, Armaan Jain, Ethan Kibel, Sara Knox, Daniel Kopae, Ivan Kwong, Zafir Ladha, Marie Le, Cassandra Lee, Janelle Lee, Janine Lee, Sydney Leung, Isaac Liao, Alexandria Lin, Cindy Liu, Jessica Lui, Marcel Lui,, Alec Mac, Priscilla Mak, Andrew Marin, Robert Martin, Riva Menon, Alim Meralli, Ayesha Mohammadally, Malika Moloo, Adam Mutassem, Beverly Ng, Christopher Ng, Hooman Nozari, Victor Paraschiv, Alena Parkinson, Nikita Pasricha, Matthew Penn, Madeline Pinizzotto, Curtis Poon, John Reid, Ryan Rezai, Jonathan Rho, Meera Sayal, Sachin Sharma, Dhilan Seehra, Evaan Shetye, Cindy Silwanes, Neha Singh, Martin Staadecker, Zamaan Tejpar, Sarah Thaver, Michelle Tran, Adrian Tudor, Celeste Ulicki, Tiffany Tsai, Darren Tse, Eric Wai, Elise Wan, Christopher Wong, Francis Yao, Clarissa Yu, Jacqueline Yu, Emily Zhong.

GRADE THREE HONOUR ROLL:

Highest Score: Jocelyn Chow (29/30) from Mississauga West

Honour Roll: Evan Atfield, Christopher Cheung, Taylor Chow, Matthew Choi, Matthew Connell-Tombs, Aly Muhammad Dayani, Rahim Dhalla, Samuel Easterbrook, Kevin Fann, Austin Gao, Aydan Jiwani, Shuli Jones, Karishma Kassam, Edmund Kong, Armaan Lalani, Ryan Lam, Christopher Leung, Samantha Leung, Fabiola Li, Benjamin Ma, Claudia Marin, Grace Metcalfe, Noah Merali, Ismaeel Mohamedally, Jennah Motani, Naeem Mussaji, Azum Nanji, Adil Natal, Peter Potaptchik, Tyler Pinto, Ioana Pitu, Aliya Rajwani, Evan Sue-A-Quan, Neeraj Varma, Ines Wong, Jereka Hudema Yu.

GRADE FOUR HONOUR ROLL:

Highest Score: Amy Kim from North Toronto, Kieran Emerson from Winnipeg, Ryan Reid from Markham West all with a score of 29/30

Honour Roll: Frederick Boyd, Adriana Brkic, Chelsea Cao, Ambrose Chan, Matthew Chang, Avery Cho, Kanika Chopra, Vishal Chopra, Pauline Chow, Jonathan Clements, Samuel Cymbaluk, Will Douglas, Rafiq Habib, Akil Hamilton, Andrea Haw, Matthew Hong, Anthony Hua, Kanghyoun Kim, Charmaine Koo, Lucas Leung, Wesley Leung, Ernest Li, Alexandra Lyn, Kevin Min, Robert Morissette, William Page, Dora Parkinson, Joni Poon, Khalid Remtulla, Karina Samji, Kayley Ting, Dylan Thomas, Christopher Tong, Andrew Vasila, Martyn Wei, Joshua Weisz, Julia Woollcombe, Lucas Xian, Tyler Yan, Jerry Yang, Vincent Yeh.

Math Olympiad Competition Cumulative Results for Students in Grades 4-6 Writing with Spirit of Math Schools:

Highest Score 22/25: Christabel Chan

Honour Roll (80% or higher): Brandon Chan, Jasper Ho, Gabriel Ip, Karan Jain, Shakir Lakhani, Arthur Li, Sean Purcell

Kim's Korner

Written by Kim Langen, Spirit of Math® Schools CEO and Co-Founder

Hard Work or Just Plain Smart – What is the Secret to Succeeding in Math?

At the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) annual convention last year I introduced the Spirit of Math program to many people. They were intrigued. They asked how we tested the students in order to accept them into our program. On learning that we look for highly motivated students with a B+ or higher overall average, they became more interested. This was not what they were expecting. What were they expecting? An intensive testing system: one similar to the gifted testing for schools that is based on IQ.

A myriad of material is available to test for giftedness. Furthermore, if you were to explore how each school board tests for giftedness, you would find that testing methods vary in their approach as do acceptance levels. The one common thread is that IQ is tested. So why were people at the NAGC surprised to hear that we weren't looking for high IQ's? It's because they are continuously questioning their testing techniques. They are finding many people who don't test as gifted often outperform those who do.

There are many extremely bright students who enter Spirit of Math who have tested at the top 98th or 99th percentile in IQ. Those students are often able to understand new material very quickly and, because of the complexity of their thinking, they are also able to apply other previously learned skills to new material. However, those students are not the ones who necessarily outperform the others. Year after year, I watch as students who are hard workers earn their way up to the top of the class. They put in an enormous effort, and have the discipline to follow through. A certain cognitive ability is present, but this isn't what accounts for the difference in performance, particularly in mathematics. It isn't those who have the highest IQ who naturally rise to the top; it is those with the discipline, persistence and doggedness to "stick with it", no matter how tough the question. Innate ability is a precious asset, but students who develop discipline and interest in the subject will often have higher scores, and will function more usefully later in life. Those are often the ones whose a

parents work closely with them, taking a great interest in their endeavours, often working just as hard as the students.

In his book *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell explores this idea in great detail. According to him, it appears that the magic number of hours required to become an expert in any particular field, along with an average to just-above-average IQ, is 10,000. "Working really hard is what successful people do,..." In addition, he noted that those people who were raised in a culture that was deeply embedded with a strong work ethic are good in math.

How can you help your child succeed in mathematics? Teach your child how to focus, concentrate and "stick with it" when the answer to a question seems to be impossible. When training teachers and evaluating them, two of the key traits evaluated are the ability to properly teach the skill sets that the students will need, and the sensitivity to know when to let the students struggle. It is so much easier to tell students how to do all the questions, but it takes a fundamental faith in a child to believe that they can accomplish their goals on their own, and to allow them to achieve the satisfaction that results from their own efforts. That faith comes from a solid self-confidence within the teacher, and a belief that hard work pays off.

Resources for Parents

Math Books

Are you looking for good math books? This site will lead to a wonderful variety, that will keep you busy for a long time! (Thank you Marnie Landon)

http://www.amazon.com/Primer-Mathematics-Competitions-Paperback-Unnumbered/dp/019953988X/ref=pe_24390_11627590_as_img_3/

Web Site

The following site is a wonderful resource for calculus students. It was created by Jack Koenka, the previous Head of Mathematics for Havergal College.

www.jackmathsolutions.com

The Winnipeg Free Press Article: *So how many profs does it take to fry your mind?*

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/life/so-how-many-math-profs-does-it-take-to-fry-your-mind-41880872.html>

Professor Litek is the editor of *Crux Mathematicorum with Mathematical Mayhem*. It's a wonderful website with puzzles and questions that students and adults often just enjoy doing, or find to be a good resource for preparing for competitions. A subscription to Crux costs \$48 a year, but some sections are on the web for free at <http://journals.cms.math.ca/crux/>

Campus Happenings

Markham East:

"Thanks to all teachers and students who made the Spirit of Math Competition so successful". (Mohammad Rezai and Ramzan Khuwaja, Campus Owners)

Mississauga West and Oakville

We would like to thank all parents and students for their hard work and commitment in preparing for the Spirit of Math Competition! Mississauga and Oakville achieved great success and we are very proud of the results! Well Done! (Salima Mussaji, Campus Owner)

Ottawa

On March 9th, several children from day schools in Ottawa wrote the Spirit of Math competition at the Ottawa campus. Thank you to the parents and students who participated in this event and made the evening a success. (*Jan-Erik Nyhuus, Campus Director Ottawa Campus*)

Willowdale

It has been a very busy 2 months, and there have been many successes in all classes. All the staff would like to thank the parents for all the support that they continue to provide their children.

Many grades 1 through 4 parents attended parent sessions for “their grade” and all had a fun evening with lots to learn with Kim Langen. Parents agreed the quick and to-the-point discussions were very valuable.

All Campuses – Summer Programs

Summer is coming and there are programs being offered in many of the Spirit of Math campuses. If you haven't seen a summer brochure yet, please ask your child's teacher. Information is on the Spirit of Math web site. <http://spiritofmath.com/register.html>

Registrations for Next School Year

Registrations will begin in April. Please keep an eye out for the registration packages. Registrations begin the 2nd Monday after the packages are first handed out. Current SMS students will have 2 weeks to register into their class of choice before registration is open to new students.

There will be registration times at all campuses. Registration packages have been handed out.

New Campuses

There are going to be new campuses opening this fall! Locations will be announced soon.

Job Postings

If you know of anyone interested in working with SMS at any of our locations, please ask them to send in their resume and cover letter to the appropriate contact at <http://www.spiritofmath.com/about6.html>. This will be updated over the next few months, so keep checking!

Franchising Opportunity

You've experienced our commitment to ensuring your children get the education that will help them achieve their full potential. We take pride in providing a franchise system with the same focus on care and professionalism. This is a business for people who are passionate about helping youth achieve their highest potential. Our franchisees receive exceptional training and support in a proven franchise system. Call Darrin Langen at (416) 223 – 1985 ext. 125 to learn more about owning your own Spirit of Math campus.

And then there's...

Drill Books

Spirit of Math® Schools Drill Books solutions are available for all parents.

Student Drill Books - \$19.95

Teacher (Parent) Drills Solution Package - \$49.95 and includes a free Teacher Training DVD.

For more information, please call 416-223-1985 ext. 110.