



**Wishing you and your family a
very happy holiday!**

All of us at Spirit of Math would like to thank you for the opportunity of working with you this year.

We extend our sincere wishes to you and your family for a joyous holiday and continued happiness and good health in the New Year.



Hello Clement,

During the last couple of years, one of the projects that my husband and I have taken on is to help a young man who is an orphan in Uganda, East Africa. He has started his own business and has been relatively successful with it, but recently made some bad decisions, and consequently, he is now in a difficult situation. Someone saw the email that I wrote to him and asked that I send it to them too, as they wanted to share it with their own son who is in his late 20's. Because of the interest in the contents, I thought I would share some of the letter with you. The content may be a little deep for young children, but the essence of working hard and not giving up when life gets hard is universal regardless of the age of a person. Here is part of the letter:

"What I have noticed in life, with others and with me, is that life is like a cycle. It will go very easily at times, then as you progress forward, different challenges happen and life gets into a chaos. (Chaos means that things are not going smoothly, or it becomes more complicated, and this happens when business grows, when new things happen in life.) It is during that chaos time that you have to be very careful because there is a change that has to happen. That change means a decision has to be made. Usually this decision is on something that you have never decided upon before, because you have never had to. Often that decision requires expertise or knowledge that you didn't have before, so it is a time of growth in your understanding of how the world works. These decisions are very very important because these critical decisions will affect your life in a big way. Those people who are successful in life make good decisions. They make good decisions because they either have the experience, skills and knowledge to make the right decisions, or they have people around them who have the experience, skills and knowledge who can guide them. These people seek others who know more, whose values are strong, and who are patient.

In your email, you have stated that you would like to move or disappear. This is a very normal reaction for many people, and here are my thoughts:

1. You can move to another country, but moving doesn't solve life's problems. Life's problems start with your own decisions, and only changing the way you make decisions will change the way your life works out. Moving only changes your life in

a positive way if you are going to something that has been properly prepared and thought out.

2. You can disappear. In bad situations many people want to give up and they think that disappearing will solve all their problems. You can feel sorry for yourself and do nothing, or expect others to sort out your troubles for you. Most people have gone through very tough times at some point in their lives. It is during these times when you CANNOT give up. I found that when I decide not to give up is when something very good happens. The difficulties push me to see things I would never have seen before, or they push me to do things that I wouldn't have done before. The tough times are when we want to give up; but instead it is a time when we grow.
3. You can learn from your past and use that knowledge and experience to build a better business, and to work smarter at your business and life. Hard times are the times when we are pushed to see opportunities that we would never have seen before. You started a business that sounded like it was successful. If you have done it once, then you can do it again. Think carefully - there may be something even better that you could do with a business that doesn't need much money to start."

As parents, our most important job is to prepare our children for their future. A big part of that preparation is to help them get through the "tough times", without "rescuing" all the time. Helping them to see new opportunities and not to give up will help them to approach life in a more fulfilling and meaningful way.

As I write this, it is the end of another year, and the beginning of a new start. Rather than making New Year's resolutions, you may want to have your children reflect on all the good decisions they made this past year, and to reflect on those that caused problems. Being able to reflect and learn from past experiences is an essential skill for a successful life.

I wish you all safe and happy holidays!

Sincerely,



Kim Langen | CEO & Co Founder, Spirit of Math Schools.

Outstanding Achievements:

Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding accomplishments outside of Spirit of Math:



Journey Gonzalez

Journey Gonzalez, a grade 2 student from the Calgary North campus has just authored, illustrated and published her first book entitled Edwina Finds a New Friend. She is one of the youngest authors to publish a book and it can now be found on amazon.



Justine Hastings

Justine Hastings, a grade 3 student from the Central Toronto campus performing in "The Nutcracker" with the National Ballet of Canada this Christmas season!



Partha Patel

Partha Patel, a grade 11 student from the Mississauga West campus won with his team the SHAD-John Dobson Entrepreneurship Cup National Competition, 3rd Place Prototype, 1st Place Application of Theme, 1st Place Business Plan and 1st Place Overall In Canada.



Nicholas Vettese

Nicholas Vettese, a grade 6 student from the Don Mills campus, participated in the World Youth Chess Championships in Halkidiki, Greece from Oct 25 - Nov 5. Nicholas was the official player for Canada in the U12 category, so all expenses for the trip were paid for him by the Chess Federation of Canada. He became the official player by winning the Canadian Championship U12 section that was held this past July in Windsor, Ontario. The World Youth Chess Championship featured top players from around the world by age category and Nicholas placed 30th of 200 players in the U12 category.

Student Achievements:

Congratulations to the following students on their achievements outside of Spirit of Math:

- Aarush Ghosh, a grade 5 student from the Mississauga West campus, participated in the First Lego League 2015 robotics qualifying tournaments with his team and won two trophies for best Robot design and best Robot run. His team also has been qualified to go for provincial level challenge that is going to take place in January 2016.

- Andrew Ganea, a grade 6 student from the Mississauga West campus, passed The Royal Conservatory of Music Basic Rudiments exam with First Class Honours.

- Arya Peruma, a grade 5 student from the Oakville campus, won first place in the Remembrance Day Literary Contest conducted by The Royal Canadian Legion - Ontario Provincial Command.

- Arya Fong, a grade 4 student from the Mississauga West campus, achieved first place in the Caribou Mathematics Contest in her school for her grade and placed in the top 7% overall.

- Brianna Lee, a grade 5 student from the Central Toronto campus, won the championship for Grade 5 girl slo-pitch tournament.

- Christian Pavlidis, a grade 11 student from the Mississauga West campus, took 2nd place in the Ladies Under 19 3.5km race at the Head of the Fish Regatta in Saratoga Springs, NY.

- Dhvani Ganesh, a grade 2 student from the Mississauga West campus, achieved Black-White belt in Tae-Kwon-Do.

- Dyuti Ganesh, a grade 4 student from the Mississauga West campus, achieved Black belt 1st Dan in Tae-Kwon-Do.

- Flavia Tripon, a grade 6 student from the Mississauga West campus, has passed Grade 4 Piano examination with First Class Honours at The Royal Conservatory

of Music.

- Jackson Podolsky, a grade 5 student from the Mississauga West campus, became a Champion of the US Tennis Association, Michigan District, Boys 10 and under "Wimbledon Halloween Open" tennis tournament.

- Jeanne Godwin, a grade 6 student from the Central Toronto campus passed her Grade 3 Royal Conservatory Voice Exam with First Class Honours (score 87%). Also, at The North York Music Festival in the Spring of 2015, Jeanne won five first place standings (score 90%+) under the adjudication of Mary Lou Fallis. Finally, she won at the North York Music Festival in the Vocal Division.

- Katia Makarytchev, a grade 4 student from the Richmond Hill Central campus placed 1st in York Region District School Board and 5th place in Ontario and Canada in the Math Caribou Contest, 1st place and gold medal in 2015 Octoberfest figure skating competition in category Ladies Juvenile Under 14 and won a gold medal and trophy in Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals figure skating competition, category Ladies Juvenile Under 14.

- Kyler Millay, 6th grader at Plano Campus received a 100 on his trimester math exam, the highest in his grade at his school.

- Katelyn Pavlidis, a grade 8 student from the Oakville campus, won silver medal in Women Under 14 competitive figure skating at the Skate Canada Northern Ontario Skokie Skate Competition in Huntsville, Ontario.

- Kaitlyn Stennett, a grade 4 student from the Mississauga West campus passed her Royal Academy of Dance grade 2 ballet with a silver medal.

- Katherine Wilson, a grade 2 student from the Central Toronto campus won 2nd place for music composition across Ontario.

- Laura Tiberiu, a grade 8 student from the Mississauga West campus, got the lead in the school band for Nationals.

- Lou Fallis won the North York Music Festival in the Vocal Division.

- Maverick Wang, a grade 4 student from the Richmond Hill Central campus, achieved a gold medal in the 2015 North York Music Festival Grade 3 Violin, he passed the Royal Conservatory of Music grade 3 Violin with First class Honours and passed Royal Conservatory of Music Intermediate Rudiments with Honours.

- Mehul Gupta, a grade 11 student from the Mississauga West campus achieved Honour Roll on Fermat Mathematics Contest 2015.

- Monica Isabella Cornea a grade 4 student from the Mississauga West campus got 1st place by scoring a perfect score in the Mathematica Byron Germain Competition.

- Rowan Betts, a grade 5 student from the Central Toronto campus, got selected to play for the Forest Hill 2005 Select Hockey Team.

- Shimater Kange, a grade 3 student from the Mississauga West campus, placed in the Top 8% in the Caribou Mathematics Contest October 2015.

- Tarini Kanyaboyina, a grade 2 student from the Plano, Dallas campus won 3rd prize in her first Chess tournament held on Nov 14th 2015. The tournament was organized by Founders Classical Academy.

- Theo Adamopoulos, a grade 5 student from the Central Toronto campus, passed his Royal Conservatory of Music grade 4 piano exam with First Class Honours.

- Tyler Stennett, a grade 6 student at the Mississauga West campus passed his Royal Conservatory of Music grade 3 piano exam with First Class Honours.

Campus News & Events

We are excited to share some of our recent events and news updates with you. Stay tuned for more updates.



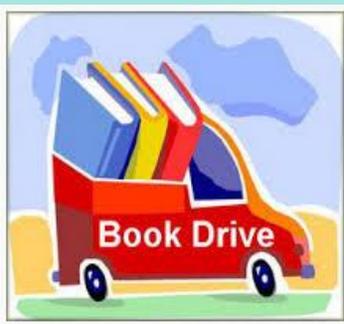
SMS Kindergarten classes starting soon!

Spirit of Math Schools is excited to announce that we are starting Kindergarten classes in January! Classes will be held at the Spirit of Math head office on Mondays starting January 4, 2016. For enrollment requirements and more details, please contact [Alisha Shaffeeullah](#).



Toy Drive

Mississauga West and Oakville hosted their second annual Toy drive this year for Sick Kids and Richmond Hill Central campus ran their first this year. Additionally, the head office also held a toy drive this year and will be giving the toys out to children that frequently visit local food banks.



Book Drive

All Vancouver campuses are hosting a book drive this year to collect new and gently used books for children aged 6 months to 12 years of age on behalf of Books for me!, a registered charity.



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UTS Preparatory Course

We are pleased to once again offer a UTS Preparatory Course for students who have been invited to stage 2 of the 2016 UTS interview process. This session will include preparation on the math section of the exams, as well as a mini-workshop covering the language area and interviewing skills. The course will be held on Friday, January 15th 2016, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm at the Spirit of Math Richmond Hill Central Location. The fee will be 100% donated to the Out of the Cold Program's Gwen Ledger Memorial Fund.



Plano Readers Choice Nomination

The Plano Campus has been nominated for Reader's Choice 2015 Ballot by Star Local Media Newspaper. Only the TOP THREE nominations made it to this level. The results will be announced in January 2016.



Central Toronto Pumpkin Sale Fundraiser

The staff of Spirit of Math Schools, Central Toronto took part in a fundraising pumpkin sale which raised over \$500 for St. Albans Boys and Girls Club. The pumpkin sale was in partnership with Freeman Realty which has been serving the community for 43 years.



Holiday Celebrations

In the spirit of holiday season, Santa Claus dropped by at our head office and surprised everyone with chocolates and gifts.

Considerable amount of new unwrapped toys were contributed by the Spirit of Math team in order to donate to the Salvation Army toy drive.

Important Announcements

- **Head Office Relocated**

We are happy to announce that we have now moved to a new location at 101-1446 Don Mills Rd, Toronto, ON M3B 3N3.

- **Winter Breaks**

All campuses will be on a break for two weeks in December. Holidays will begin from December 21, 2015 till Sunday January 3, 2016. Classes will resume on Monday January 4, 2016.

For further information, please check with your campus director or principal.

- **Winter Gear**

Winter is around the corner, we would advise you to make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes to take to class with them as students will be asked to take their outdoor boots and shoes off before they enter their classroom. If there is snow on a day when you have a class, please take your time travelling to campus to ensure you arrive safely.

- **Summer Camps**

Stay tuned to for information on our coming year's summer camps. We will be collaborating with a few partners to provide your children with some exciting opportunities.

Fun Facts



Christmas & Santa Claus

About 300 million children on average celebrate Christmas. Let's say there are 3 children per household. Therefore, Santa Claus has to visit 100 million houses on Christmas Eve. Santa has 31 hours to travel (time differences taken into account). This means Santa needs to visit 896 houses per second!

All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.



Largest Christmas Stocking

The world's largest Christmas stocking measured 106 feet and 9 inches (32.56 m) long and 49 feet and 1 inch (14.97 m) wide.

It weighed as much as five reindeer and held almost 1,000 presents.

It was made by the Children's Society in London on December 14, 2007.



Christmas Tree Facts

The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was in Seattle Washington in 1950. The Christmas tree was 221 feet tall!

194, 672 is the record number of lights on a Christmas tree, achieved in Belgium in 2010.

There are between 25 and 30 million fresh Christmas trees sold each year!

It can take up to 15 years to grow an average-sized Christmas tree of 6- 7 feet or as little as 4 years!

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