



SPIRIT OF MATH'S CAMP EXPERIENCE - It's Amazing!

Dear Parents of Spirit of Math students,

We would like to wish you all a cheerful March Break. We hope you have an opportunity to spend time with your friends and families to celebrate the beginning of a wonderful spring.

Spirit of Math summer camps are just around the corner! Our summer program offers an intensive, exciting and fun week of math enrichment camps based on our unique curriculum. There are many different programs available for students to choose from; these can be found on our website under [Camps](#).

Pre-registration for the 2016-17 school year will be starting in April. Please contact your campus to find out the exact date. Students who are currently enrolled in Spirit of Math can register two weeks before new students are able to. This is to ensure you have the first chance to enroll in class of your choice. Please note that some classes fill up during the first week of pre-registration, so be sure to register as soon as possible.



Finishing of Circles

Parents will often ask me what they can do to help their child meet that extra-high level of success. In school, it may mean moving up in grades from a B to an A, or an A to an A+. In sports, it could mean moving up from a house league to a competitive league. A person's ability to think quickly and combine many facts and ideas, as well as their skill sets, all help students move up to an elite level. Those are usually the attributes that people work on. There is, however, another attribute that is generally not given enough attention, and that is finishing off your circles. Now, I don't just mean drawing a circle; what I am talking about here is to finish off a task right to the end.

When watching those high performers who seem to rise above the others, they take their time to complete something right to the bitter end, therefore ensuring every detail is taken care of before moving onto something new. They tend to do this naturally, not just in their studies, but in all areas of their lives. It is a habit that separates them from others. Below, I have stated a couple of examples of finishing circles in everyday situations.

1. Putting away dishes after a meal. Many kids will put their dishes onto the top of the counter and not take that extra 5 seconds to put them into the dishwasher. Finishing the circle is putting them into the dishwasher.
2. Putting clothes away when getting undressed, rather than leaving them on the bed or on the floor.
3. When leaving a room, finishing the circle is turning off the lights.
4. When your child finishes writing a test early, does (s)he take the time to go back

and check over their answers, redo the questions, and check for silly mistakes?

5. When doing homework, the circle is finished by ensuring that each and every question is completed, including the last question. Many students don't quite finish the "homework circle" by not completing the last part of the last question, or of several questions. Spending extra time on those "endings" could naturally take a student up a grade.

These may seem like obvious points; however, many children (and adults) will build up several unfinished "circles", which cause a lot more work and therefore a lot of stress. Purposefully paying attention to finishing circles right away can change a child's life in a very simple and quick manner. Making them aware of these "circles" and the importance of finishing them off properly will help them understand that this isn't just you "nagging" them to finish something. If changes are needed to help a child finish off their circles, then the fastest way to do it is to comment on their finished circles when they are complete. Immediate feedback has a much greater chance to create a behavioural change.

Kim Langen

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

Outstanding Achievements:

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



Heavin An

Heavin An, a grade 3 student from the Markham West campus has been selected to enter the 2015/2016 Young Writers of Canada Annual Poetry Contest. Her poem will be published in the summer of 2016.

Jaden Elgin

Jaden Elgin, a grade 2 student from the Plano, Dallas campus, earned the Silver medal in the 8-and-under 50-meter freestyle swimming Texas State championship. He also won the



Regional Gold in 1500m running and Gold State (Texas) championship in 2k cross-country. Jaden is ranked the 6th AAU Cross Country Champion in the (U.S.) nation.



Ryan Lin

Ryan Lin, a grade 11 student and an Assistant Teacher at the Don Mills campus, has won 1st place in Ontario in the Marketing Management category at DECA. Ryan will be joining the other top 7 students in Nashville later this year to represent Ontario at DECA's international conference.



Vera Tong

Vera Tong, a grade 6 from Richmond Hill Central campus recently competed at the Canada Open Taekwondo Championships in Montreal in the 33kg Cadet Girls Division and won a Silver medal. She currently holds a 1st degree black belt and trains at Son's Taekwondo. Her next competition will be the National Championships in Calgary this upcoming May.



Zack Willson

Zack Willson, a grade 7 student from the Central Toronto campus, participated in the Sterling Hall School Kaufman Cup Debating & Public Speaking Tournament on Saturday Feb 6th, 2016. He placed first in the Junior Division Parliamentary Debate.



Jeremy Zotov

Jeremy Zotov, a grade 5 Don Mills student, successfully passed his audition at Canada's National Ballet School. The school was established in 1959 and is an internationally renowned academy that attracts the best dancers and teachers around the world. Jeremy was one of five students accepted into the program.



Tiffany Zheng

Tiffany Zheng, a grade 3 student from the Richmond Hill North campus, won Gold (Star 4 Team Elements) for figure skating in the Winter Glitter competition.

Spirit of Math Student Achievements:

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

Danyal Amini, a grade 5 student received his first degree black belt in Taekwondo.

Curtis An, a grade 7 student, came 5th in Ontario in the Vex IQ Principal Championship (final paired-team competition).

Victor Assuncao, a grade 3 student earned his Blue Belt in Martial Arts.

Robert Balanescu, team FLL (First Lego League), placed 6th at the provincial level competition out of 40 competing teams.

Aryan Bhasin, a grade 4 student came first in his sparring competition in Taekwondo.

Aliza Boudarov, a grade 2 student received first place for piano (7-year-old group) at the Ukrainian Music Festival.

Stanley Branin, a grade 9 student was a semi-finalist (3rd place) in a tennis championship for high schools in York Region.

Christopher Cha, a grade 5 student, and his Lego robotics team won the Robot Design award and will be advancing to provincials.

Taha Choudhry, a grade 2 student, received the Math Lone Star Learner Award at his school.

Eric Cucuri, a grade 7 student, passed his practical piano exam with Honours.

Clara Cui, a grade 4 student, passed her grade 6 piano test with Honours.

Mihail Cirstea, a grade 6 student, qualified for the Central Regionals Swimming

competition for 50m freestyle.

Dyuti Ganesh, a grade 4 student, achieved Black Belt (1st Poom) in Taekwondo.

Dhvani Ganesh, a grade 2 student, achieved Black-Red Belt in Taekwondo.

Yusuf Gharraph, a grade 5 student, has been selected to represent his school (Brighter Horizon's Academy) in Mathematics and Number Sense competitions at the Private School Interscholastic Association (PSIA). The selection was based on the top 4 students who performed the highest on a competition assessment test. Yusuf was among the top 4 for those 2 assessments. He said being in Spirit of Math since last year prepared him to do well!

Sruti Kanyaboyina, a grade 8 student, was accepted to the International Baccalaureate (IB) World School at PISD (Plano Independent School District). The IB Program is composed of the 9th & 10th grade International Honours preparatory program and the 11th & 12th grade International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Sruti is also a member of the Renner basketball team, which just won the Plano City Championships.

Zak Karim, a grade 1 student, achieved his Blue Belt in Taekwondo.

Charlie Keen, a grade 6 student earned his Purple Advanced Belt at Northern Karate School.

Hilary Kim, a grade 6 student, earned her Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Steve Kim, a grade 6 student, earned his Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Areesa Lalani, a grade 8 student, won a school-wide election to be Grade Representative for the year.

Eric Lam, a grade 8 student, won Gold Medals in the Ontario Taekwondo Provincial Game 2016, individual poomsae and pair poomsae. Eric was also elected to be the only Soloist & Section Leader (playing the Clarinet) in his School's Concert Band.

Harper Lepage, a grade 6 student, took Bronze in her grade for her school's speech competition and Silver in her rep team's basketball tournament.

Carter Lee, a grade 5 student, earned his Black Belt in taekwondo.

Maya Joy Lindstrom-Parkins, a grade 10 student, had the honour of performing at Carnegie Hall on February 7th, 2016 with the High School Honors String Orchestra on viola. This ensemble was comprised of musicians covering 42 states and 7 countries.

Julian Lok, a grade 2 student, won the Second Place award in the CCC Toronto Piano Competition in the Grade 2 List A, and a Second Place award in Grade 2 Studies. Julian also placed Third in the Grade 2 List B. Julian passed the piano exam for Grade 2 with First Class Honours with Distinction.

Jaymin Lui, a grade 3 student, earned his Purple Belt in Taekwondo. He is also part of the chess team at school, placing 2nd place in chess in the school competition this year. Last year, he made it to the Ontario chess championships and placed 22nd for his grade and age.

Kaitlyn Ma, a grade 6 student, received the Bronze Medallion in swimming.

Alesia Mano, a grade 7 student, placed 3rd in the Intermediate Essay Remembrance Day Literacy contest.

Alim Meralli, a grade 9 student, obtained the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze certificate.

Jonah Mickelson, a grade 7 student, was elected to be on Student Council at Forest Hill P.S. this year.

Sherwin Miller, a grade 4 student, won the Gold Medal in the GTA Classic Jiu Jitsu Tournament.

Anna Mirazizyan, a grade 4 student passed the Royal Conservatory Exam for grade 2 with First Class Honours. Anna and her sister, Alex, also organized a fund raising baking sale where they raised \$140 for the Mississauga Humane Society.

Arvin Nikeghbali, a grade 5 student, won the 100m and 200m race, placing First in his school for Track and Field.

Carter Nisbett, a grade 1 student, recently did some advertising for Winners, 3 Paw Patrol Webisodes, and a TD Bank PSA.

Aditya Ohri, a grade 7 student, scored 95% in her RCM Intermediate Piano exam.

Emily Pang, a grade 3 student, passed the Grade 3 Piano Exam with First Class Honours.

Alexandru Popescu, a grade 5 student, passed his Grade 3 Piano Exam with First Class Honours.

Imraan Parthab, a grade 6 student, obtained his Red Belt in Karate.

Glen Raudanskis, a grade 8 student, won a Silver medal in a provincial competition in boy's gymnastics.

Nikos Rossolatos, a grade 2 student, received the Player of the Game Award during the Novice Hockey Tournament, and his hockey team won the Tyke Select Championship.

Aseman Shahasavand is a member of Royal Astronomy Society of Canada, and her modified poem of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star was published in their October newsletter.

Madelyn Shim, a grade 5 student, achieved First Class Honours for her performance on the Grade 2 Practical Piano exam.

Dylan Stanislaus, a grade 7 student, obtained his Brown Advanced Belt in Karate and scored above 90s in all his drum tests (up to level 4).

Honor Stanton, a grade 9 student, achieved 3rd Place in the Junior Impromptu Public Speaking Competition at Country Day School, and 5th Place at the Parliamentary Intermediate Debate at the Sterling Hall Debate Competition.

Mihika Saraswathi, a grade 5 student, passed the Grade 3 Piano exam with First Class Honours at the Ontario Conservatory of Music.

Tyler Stennett, a grade 6 student, broke the Ontario provincial indoor track record for the 4 x 200m relay at the International Youth Meet of Champions.

Luke Tesser, a grade 5 student, won the Gold Medal in the National WuShu Competition. Luke also achieved the Taolu Level 2 Yellow Sr. He also passed the Basic Rudiments with First Class Honors at The Royal Conservatory of Music.

Flavia Tripon, a grade 6 student, was granted a scholarship award for piano by the 45th Annual Ukrainian Music Festival. She also won 1st place in 50m backstroke at the Jan 2016 Cobra Tristar Meet (Girls 10-13).

Cole Thompson, a grade 4, student tried out and made the 'AAA' Toronto Young Nationals Minor Atom hockey team.

Nathan Vasa, a grade 6 student, won a gold medal for a floor hockey tournament with the Richmond Hill Floor Hockey association, a silver medal at the Westmall Ice Hockey tournament in Toronto, was selected as Grade 6 Leader to represent his school in a Leadership Seminar, and was selected as a Hockey team Captain for the Richmond Hill Stars.

Timur Volkov, a grade 2 student, passed the Royal Conservatory Exam in grade 1 piano with First Class Honours.

Sarah Vretenar, a grade 3 student, and her synchronized skating team placed fourth at the Synchro Capers Competition and received a Bronze Medal for Third place at the Ontario Regional Synchronized Skating Championships.

Austin Wang, a grade 6 student, passed Music Theory Advanced Rudiments in December 2015, scoring 85, First Class with Honours.

Desiree Wong, a grade 6 student, published her poem in a book.

Evan Woo, a grade 6 student, received the Eco Leadership Award.

Jessica Xu, a grade 2 student, passed the Grade 1 Piano Exam with First Class Honours.

Richard Xu, a grade 7 student, earned First Class Honours with 86% in his Piano Practical Exam, Level 8.

Dylan Yang, a grade 4 student, passed the Grade 8 piano exam and Advanced Rudiments with Honours with The Royal Conservatory of Music. Dylan also placed third in the CCC Piano Competition for his age group.

Brian Yau Tam Sang, a grade 5 student, won the Novice Division Top Scorer with the Salvation Army Junior Hockey League. Brian also won the Novice Division MVP award and placed 1st in the Elementary Division Chess Tournament for his school. He also passed the Royal Conservatory of Music grade 4 Piano Exam with First Class Honours and achieved the Red Sash in Wushu Martial Arts.

Chloe Lee-Yow, a grade 5 student, won First overall for 9-10 Intermediate girls for the 2015 National Martial Arts Circuit in February.

Rachel Yau Tam Sang, a grade 8 student, and her school band won the Music Leadership Award with the Ontario Band Association's 14th Concert Band Festival. Rachel also passed the Royal Conservatory of Music grade 8 exam with Honours and the Advanced Rudiments with First Class Honours with Distinction, and achieved her Red Sash in Wushu Martial Arts. Rachel also completed the Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross Certification.

Elly Yu, a grade 6 student, published a book named "1001 Stories" in French.

Lucas Zafran, a grade 6 student, won a Bronze Medal and Brown Belt in Karate.

Campus News & Events

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



21st Century Basic Education International Forum in China

Kim Langen, CEO and Co-Founder of Spirit of Math Schools, has been invited to China to give two keynote addresses at the 21st Century Basic Education Curriculum Reform International Forum. Kim will be speaking to a group of Chinese principals and teachers about the North American education system and how Spirit of Math teaching techniques and methodology is helping students to succeed in math and other subjects.

Principals in China are keen to discover what makes Spirit of Math different how they can apply our practices in their own schools, and we are very excited about this opportunity to promote the Spirit of Math brand overseas!



UTS Day

Each year, Spirit of Math holds a math and interview skills preparatory day for grade 6 students entering the second round of interviews for the University of Toronto Schools. Spirit of Math teachers donate their time to teach this course with 100% of the proceeds going to the Gwen Ledger Memorial Fund. This fund provides a scholarship for post-secondary education to one individual each year, assisting them in becoming employable. This year we raised \$6400. Spirit of Math is committed to providing a high quality curriculum to our students and we are always looking for feedback on how we're doing. If you have any comments in regards to the

UTS day, please send them to Christie Cooper at ccooper@spiritofmath.com.



Edison Campus

Below are the achievements from the WMO Contest, which took place in Princeton, NJ on January 31, 2016. Thirty students from China flew to New Jersey to compete against local students. The Spirit of Math students were the only local students who competed against the Chinese students.

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements in the WMO:

GOLD

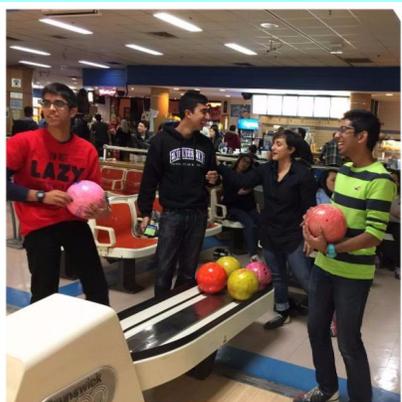
Emily Hsu (Gr 4)
Arnav Batra (Gr 5)
Disha Verma (Gr 4)

SILVER

Tanush Patil (Gr 3)
Savera Bhatia (Gr 4)

BRONZE

Miranda Murarka (Gr 3)
Shreyas Kadari (Gr 3)
Parth Mhaske (Gr 3)
Meher Bhatia (Gr 8)



Mississauga West and Oakville Campuses

This year the current and Alumni Assistant Teachers met for a bowling night on Saturday, February 20th. They had the opportunity to share their experiences at SMS and what has been going on post high school. It was a great way for them to network with one another and make lasting connections.



Ioana Pitu

Ioana Pitu, former SMS student and current assistant teacher at the Mississauga West campus won the first place in DECA Provincials Competition. Next Step: ICDC in Nashville Tennessee sometime around April!



Vaughan Campus

This year, the Vaughan campus raised \$500 for Operation Smile Canada. The money was raised by their students, teachers and parents and will provide a cleft lip surgery for 2 kids and medicine for their recovery. They are very proud of this achievement! There are two classes that raised the most money, the grade 8 Wednesday class and grade 9. These two classes were given a pizza party in recognition of their efforts.



Plano Wins Readers' Choice Award

The Plano Campus has won the 2015 Readers' Choice Award! Congrats to our Plano campus director Joanne Kozlowski on her hard work and efforts.

Important Announcements

Important Dates for Math Contests and Exams

(CNML) Math League Contests:

Grades 3 & 4 Math League Contests	Lesson 35
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Mathematica:

Wednesday, 20 April 2016	
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EXAMS

All Campuses (except Winnipeg, Edison, and Plano)

Monday, May 9 - Sunday May 15	Grades 5-11
Monday, June 6 - Sunday, June 12	Grades 1-4

Winnipeg

Wednesday, May 4 & Thursday, May 5	Grades 5-11
Wednesday, June 8 & Thursday, June 9	Grades 1-4

Edison, NJ

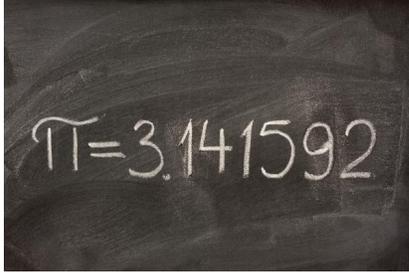
Monday, May 2	Grades 5-8
Monday, June 6	Grades 1-4

Plano, TX

Tuesday, April 19 & Wednesday	April 20: Grades 5-8
Tuesday, May 17 & Wednesday	May 18: Grades 1-4

Fun Facts

Pi Day



Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th around the world because the digits in the date, March 14 or 3/14, are the first three digits of π (3.14). Pi (Greek letter " π ") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant - the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter - which is approximately 3.14159.

March 14 also happens to be the birth date of Albert Einstein -- which makes the day an extra special one for planning math challenges and math fun!

How to celebrate.

Discover Pi and

- Have a pie baking contest and combine it with a pi recitation contest. Anyone who can recite the most digits of the constant gets to take home a pie.

For more Pi fun:

Check out the following videos (*these can be found on YouTube*):

- My Passion for Pi (9-year-old "Pi Enthusiast" Chirag Singh)
- The Pi Episode: Math Bites with Danica McKellar



World partnership Walk

Spirit of Math will be partnering with the World Partnership Walk to raise money for the Agha Khan Foundation, which works to alleviate poverty in Asia and Africa by providing children with education, health care, and proper nutrition. Last year, five Spirit of Math campuses raised \$6 000, an amount which was matched by the Canadian government to provide a total of \$12 000 to help reduce poverty!

Walks will be held in various cities throughout Canada in May and June. In Toronto the walk is on May 29th, 2016. Campus Directors will be sending an email to all parents through Jupiter Ed with more information in

the coming weeks for anyone who is interested in participating or making a donation. For more information about the World Partnership Walk and the Agha Khan Foundation, please visit <https://www.worldpartnershipwalk.com/en/>

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STAY CONNECTED

