



## Wishing you & your family a very happy holiday!

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 good health in the New Year. We are excited to share some of our student achievements, news/events and upcoming important announcements from this semester.



### Pakistan: The Invisible Sophistication

Out of the midst of the busy crowded room a small child placed herself directly in front of me, and with outmost confidence and determination she said "Miss I would like to show you what I can do with a SMART Board. Could you please come and see my display?"

She then led me through the multitude of people to the back of the very large conference room past a facial recognition booth for students, a digital snakes and ladders games, and other high tech solutions for schools where an interactive SMART Board resided. Once there, she stood up straight and proudly explained what a person could do with the pictures on the board. This girl was no more than 5 or 6 years old, yet she spoke with a confidence, and a belief in herself, and in what she was doing, that is rarely found in adults, yet representative of the people of Pakistan wherever I travelled.

This was my second visit to Pakistan. I had arrived in Lahore the night before and I was immersed in a science and technology showcase in the Schools of Tomorrow conference organized by Beaconhouse. The show was an example of the innovation in education, and that spirit of innovation was replicated in every school system I visited. This drive to do the best and to be at the forefront of educational ideas, whether or not it included technology, was central to the thinking throughout all the systems. People are open to ideas, prepared to justify theirs and ready to change if needed. In fact, in many ways, I wouldn't be surprised if these schools are ahead of the western schools with many of their ideas. The structure of the educational systems has been developed due to the need to create education systems without waiting for the government to create them. Consequently large private school systems have been developed, some the largest in the world with one educating 250,000 students. These private systems are huge, and because they have been founded and developed with a focus on being the best in education as their competitive edge, the standards are very high. Many of the educators I talked to graduated from a UK university and were just as educated, if not more, than our average teachers. The ideas, debates and drive to be the best has certainly given Pakistan an edge when it comes to education. There may still be a lot of rote learning, but there is certainly a lot more happening than what is communicated to the West in the media.

That little girl in Pakistan could have stood right beside any of our students in Spirit of Math here in Canada. Her confidence and her ability to speak with such conviction and care is something that we can all learn from.

We are going to be started classes in Lahore Pakistan in September 2017. Several private school systems have applied to be partner schools with us, and we are very excited to be partnering with them.

Sincerely,

*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:

### Karesa Arora

Karesa Arora a grade 4 student, participated in Acro Competition and won gold with her team. She is also an excellent Figure Skater and has won Gold medal three times at her level.



### Nicholas Fonseca

Nicholas Fonseca a grade 2 student, won silver medal at the Ontario Speed Skating Association championship in Brampton.



### Peter Gogolev

Peter Gogolev a grade 10 student, placed first in the K2 Kayak in the Ontarian Championship this year and 5th and 2nd in the Single and K4 respectively.



### Stephan Gogolev

Stephan Gogolev a grade 7 student, won the Gold Medal in men's novice in figure skating at the Canadian Tire National Championship at Halifax. He landed a triple axel, scoring 142.30. Stephen even has a fan blog - Stephen Gogolev Fan Blog that was created by his fans.

Stephan Gogolev is in the middle of the picture.

## Student Achievements:

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

- Carter Albiani a grade 4 student, came 2nd in the TCDSB Regionals Cross Country. He also plays AA competitive hockey.
- Kai Baptista a Grade 4 student, achieved Red Stripe belt in Taekwondo and he won a Plank Holding contest (i.e. Abdominal strength exercise) at Etobicoke Basketball's BTP (Believe, Train, Perform) Training Camp this summer. Kai was competing against much older boys (Grade 7 boys) and won! He held the plank position for 10 minutes.
- Alexander Chan a grade 3 student, achieved Latin Ballroom dancing trophy, and a brown advanced belt in Karate.

- Julian Chapin-Ker a grade 1 student, achieved a blue stripe belt in Taekwondo.
- Connor Chase a grade 4 student, completed his Grade One RCM piano exam with 'First Class Honours. Connor also performed a lead role as Mike Teavee in Act One's Production of Willy Wonka.
- Morgan Cheng a grade 1 student, received the Good Citizen Award at her school for Responsibility.
- Pearl Desai, a grade 5 student, from the Richmond Hill North campus, achieved purple belt in her karate class.
- Carter Albiani a grade 4 student, came 2nd in the TCDSB Regionals Cross Country. He also plays AA competitive hockey.
- Karesa Arora a grade 4 student, participated in Acro Competition and won gold with her team. She is also an excellent Figure Skater and has won Gold medal three times at her level.
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- Inaaya Iqbal a grade 5 student, has been selected to play on her school soccer team. Their team won first place at the Dixie Dragons Soccer Tournament.
- Myra Jaggi a grade 2 student, successfully completed Grade 1 Voice with First Class Honors prescribed by Conservatory Canada. Myra has also performed on stage in various musical adaptations like Annie, 101 Dalmatians and will be performing in Jungle Book this December.
- Elizabeth Katkova a grade 5 student, won first and two second places while competing at the Burlington Music Festival in piano.
- Mariana Kelbas a grade 4 student, passed the Taekwondo test for second Dan Black Belt.
- Kritisha Lalli a grade 3 student, received the Yamaha Grade Examinations Scholarship Award.
- Laura Giancola a grade 9 student, was voted president of the student council of her school last month. She is Ste-Madeleine Catholic School's first school president.

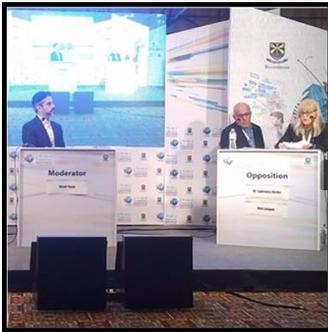
- Nigel Wagner a grade 7 student, received the Grade 6 Academic Award, won a Bronze Star in swimming level, and holds top 5 positions in hockey defense at GTHL, Leaside.
- Daniel Markevych a grade 6 student, received City of Toronto Championship in school softball and school football.
- Liam Mathers a grade 6 student, won a silver medal in U13 Men's Fall Field Lacrosse.
- Yash Mondkar a grade 5 student, achieved the Black Belt in Karate with top score of 97% through YMCA Mississauga.
- Aryana Monshikhayat a grade 4 student, has got a Black Belt in Taekwondo.
- Vlad Popa, a grade 4 student, and his soccer team 360 Futbol won the gold medal at the Liverpool Midwest Invitational tournament in Pontiac, Michigan.
- Tejas Prahas a grade 6 student, has been promoted to Red Belt in Taekwondo. Tejas also placed first in the Orange Level of Mississauga Chess club and hence promoted to the Green Level.
- Arjun Rao a grade 8 student, along with his soccer team (RVDL) won the U 12 boys Nottingham Cup in the UK this July, defeating all teams they faced in their category! The Nottingham cup attracts over 300+ teams from 19 nations every year, and is the largest football tournament in UK.
- Alexander Reeves a grade 2 student, ran the Scotiabank Waterfront 5k, and earned the "Spirit Award" at a Chess Institute of Canada chess tournament.
- Hargun Sibal a grade 8 student, was on his baseball team at Oakville Little League this summer where his team GIANT won the District Championship.
- Madissen Sitka grade 9 student, had a fundraising event in January of 2016 to fund the Juvenile Arthritis Youth Support Program. She wanted to help others enjoy sports as she is an avid basketball player herself. She raised \$300.00 and donated it at a Juvenile Arthritis Family Fun Event.
- Parket Turnbull a grade 3 student, won a bronze medal at the Karate World Championships in Hamilton in November.
- Lauren Willson a grade 5 student, obtained first place in the CISAA Cross Country Finals for Girls Under 11.
- Katherine Wilson a grade 3 student, recently completed "Mini-Med School" at York University.
- Zack Wilson a grade 8 student, won a U14 Provincial Circuit 3-star Tennis Tournament at ACE Burlington in October.
- Oliver Wong a grade 5 student, made the North Toronto Huskies U11 basketball team, which is a division 1 team in the Ontario Basketball Association.
- Sarah Wuebbolt a grade 2 student, achieved Red Belt in Taekwondo.
- Anthony Zhang a grade 5 student, got his Taekwondo Black Belt in November.
- Rui Zhou, a grade 3 student, received 2 awards at his school: The Principal's Award and First place in the Spelling Bee for the primary grades.
- Ibrahim Zineldin a grade 3 student, took 2 bronze medals and obtained the Red

Belt in Taekwondo. He also achieved his 5th level award from the Red Cross Swim Kids.

- Lori Phun, a grade 4 student, starred in the new movie "The Suitcase" which made its world premiere at the film festival during the most recent Toronto International Film Festival with a sold-out crowd.
- Matthew Highland, a grade 4 student, has earned his Brown Belt in Karate.
- Kourosh Danaie, a grade 6 student, has received Black Belt Dan1 in Taekwondo. He also won first, second and third place in recent tournaments.
- Lucas Guan, a grade 3 student, has passed The Royal Conservatory of Music piano level 4 exam with First Class Honours.
- Misha Sud, a grade 3 student, has won a silver medal in a Karate Tournament in October.
- Hank Chen, a grade 4 student, earned his Black Belt in Taekwondo.

## Campus News & Events

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



### Global Expansion

#### Spirit of Math - Officially a company in Pakistan

Spirit of Math is proud to announce that we are now officially a company in Pakistan! We will be starting classes in Lahore beginning September 2017 for Grades K-5. During our most recent trip to Lahore, Pakistan, quite a few exciting events happened. We met with plenty private school Directors, University Vice-Chancellors and other people of influence within the Pakistani education system. Not only did we meet with people and tour schools, we also held our own workshop for educators on addressing the needs of the high performing and participated in external events within education. Our CEO, Kim Langen was invited to speak as the Guest of Honour at the much-anticipated College Night opening ceremony for The City School System. The City School is one of the largest private school systems in South East Asia and has earned an incredible reputation for being a leader in academic excellence and professional development. Kim was also invited to take part in a debate concerning whether or not to create a national standardized curriculum. This debate was at the School's of Tomorrow conference run by the Beaconhouse School System, the largest school system in the world. We are very excited for this venture into Pakistan, giving us the opportunity to spread our educational philosophies globally!



Read [more here](#) about The City School

Read [more here](#) about debate held at The Beaconhouse



## **Congratulations to Team Sapphire for Winning the Queen's University and Scotia Innovation Challenge**

Spirit of Math school recently participated and sponsored the International Innovation Challenge 2016! The competition focused on the exciting area of customer analytics, and was organized and hosted by the Smith School of Business in collaboration with Scotiabank Centre for Customer Analytics. We would like to congratulate "Team Sapphire" from Smith School of Business at Queen's University for winning this year's Innovation Challenge! It was incredible to see all the participants bring their best this year.

To learn more about the event, please [read here](#)



## **Holiday Spirit Starts Right Here!**

At Spirit of Math we believe in making a difference in the community. This year we held a holiday toy drive throughout our campuses across Canada and the United States. The collected toys and art supplies were donated to different charity foundations. One of our campuses also participated in a Turkey Giveaway. We are grateful for everyone's generous donations this year! Imagine all the kid's smiles! We are so proud and moved to see how strong the spirit of giving lives inside everyone at Spirit of Math.



## **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 2017 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 13, 2017 from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm at the Spirit of Math Markham West Campus (50 McIntosh Drive, Markham) and Leaside Campus (109 Vanderhoof Avenue, Toronto). The fee will be 100% donated to the Out of the Cold Program's Gwen Ledger Memorial Fund.

## **Spirit of Math on WeChat:**

☐☐! Join us on WeChat!  
Scan or add "SpiritofMath"



## Important Announcements

### Winter Breaks:

All campuses in Canada will be on a break for two weeks in December. Holidays will begin from **December 23, 2016 till Sunday January 6, 2017**. Classes will resume on **Saturday January 7, 2017**.

In US the winter break will be week of **December 26** and the classes will resume on **Monday January 2, 2017**. For further information, please check with your campus director or principal.

### Winter Gear:

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.

### Free Trial Class:

Our Free Trial Classes are around the corner starting from **January 7 until February 17, 2017**. Help a fellow parent out and share the news of our incredible Free Trial Class opportunity! Classes will be open to grades K-11, but act quick as spaces are limited.

### Summer Camps:

Stay tuned for information on our summer camp offering and schedule. We are collaborating with some incredible partners to provide your child with some exciting new opportunities this summer. You are more than welcome to recommend a camp for your child, please feel free to send us an email to the [Marketing Department](#).

## Christmas Fun Facts

### In Canada, Santa outsources his elves

Since 1982, Canada has housed Santa's



Post Office, which employs mail-room elves courtesy of Canada Post. Close to **200,000** volunteer hours are spent receiving and replying back to over **20 million** letters from all over the world.

Source: [thehive.com](http://thehive.com)



### Speedy Santa

US scientists calculated that SANTA would have to visit **822** homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at **650 miles a second**.

Source: [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk)



### We love our trees

Canada harvests close to **5.5 Million** Christmas trees each year, which works out to be **one tree for every 7 Canadians**. And that doesn't even include those that have the artificial trees in their homes. Since 2006 Canada has been exporting **2.25 million** trees to over **25** countries such as Japan, Mexico, Jamaica and even the US.

Source:

[thehive.com](http://thehive.com)

### Spirit of Math

101-1446 Don Mills.  
Toronto, ON. M3B 3N3

1-866-SMS-MATH (767-6284)

[info@spiritofmath.com](mailto:info@spiritofmath.com)  
[www.spiritofmath.com](http://www.spiritofmath.com)

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