

WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



Dear Parents of Spirit of Math Students,

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our returning families and those who are joining us for the first time this year. We hope you had a wonderful summer with many memorable adventures and opportunities with friends and families. Last month we embarked on another rewarding year of new challenges and promoting the spirit of cooperation which thrives in our growing learning community. We are truly excited to share some of our new campus insights, outstanding student achievements, important announcements and our plans for the future moving forward.



Kim Langen is CEO and Co-Founder for Spirit of Math. In each of our newsletters she shares ideas on parenting and education.

Rote Learning: What is missing?

The teacher in a school in China was teaching angles for the first time to grade 2 students.

Teacher: *"Do you agree?"* **All the students in unison:** *"Yes!"*

Teacher: *"It's an angle."* **All the students in unison:** *"An angle."*

Teacher: *"An angle."* **All the students in unison:** *"An angle."*

Teacher: *"An angle. Understand?"* **Students:** *"yes".*

Teacher: *"This is an angle. Right?"* **All the students in unison:** *"Yes."*

When I visited various schools in Asia and south Asia I had a wonderful opportunity to watch teachers teach, and to work very briefly with students. What I found most interesting about the teaching was the way in which information was imparted to students. The teacher told the students what the information was and the kids repeated it back. This happened several times before the teacher went onto the next idea and the same method of "tell-repeat-tell-repeat-tell-repeat" happened over and over again. Memorization was the secret to doing well. When in New Delhi, I watched with amazement, impressed with how much a group of students could memorize when presenting a story about a famous mathematician. It was clear that the students had written up a long, long speech and memorized it word-for-word. These children also shared very worn, old textbooks in their classes, and they had no textbook to take home with them, so they had to memorize. Rote learning is ideal for this type of thinking: quickly memorize the key words, and repeat it back. But don't be fooled, rote learning is rote. It is not about understanding so that higher level logical thinking can happen. It is also very individualized in that there is no discussion, or sharing of information and ideas between students.

Switching out of teaching for rote learning to other methods of teaching is very, very difficult to do. Teaching for rote learning is very easy to do, and therefore, the teacher doesn't have many opportunities to develop their teaching skills. When teaching for rote learning, the focus is on the content, and telling the students "what-it-is" or "what-to-do". It is very easy to just stand at the front of the class and tell the kids what to do. All this requires is knowing how to do it for yourself, then telling the kids and showing them, if needed. The kids just repeat what the teacher is saying, or doing, and follows along. The consequences are that students learn to wait to be told what to do, and to do what they are supposed to with exactness, as told. Procedures are robotically followed, and students feel good because they can see the answer very quickly. The types of questions that work well with this are procedural, and those that can be completed with very few steps.

Therefore, repetition of very quick-to-answer questions are given, and it appears that a lot has been taught because a lot of simple, fast questions have been completed on a sheet, or many words have been memorized and written. This is also easy for a teacher because the amount of risk for the teacher is very low. They can control what will be said, and what the answers will be.

Now let's switch out of rote learning, to learning where the teacher is able to instill a disciplined discovery, in which skills are learned and practiced, and ideas are developed by "pulling out" ideas from the students. Do not confuse this with the "discovery" method of teaching math in which activities are the focus, and creativity, just for creativity, is done without any consolidation of skills. Using a DISCIPLINED discovery type of teaching, the teacher must know how their students are thinking and the students' understanding of concepts. This is the start of the "pulling-out" process. Once they have developed a new idea, then the skills can be developed and the questions that the students will work through will require them to apply their skills with logical thinking because the questions will not be those that the teacher has given before. The teacher's main role is to ensure that the students have all the skills needed to answer the questions, and that they have modeled the right kind of thinking by asking questions that get students to think about what is happening. When students have this opportunity to think

and work with a program that challenges their ideas and develops their skills, then they will need to talk to others. When they naturally find themselves collaborating with others, then they start to develop many more ideas on their own, not waiting to be told what to do. They now will be asking the questions, pushing the ideas forward, becoming pro-active in the way they work with the world rather than reactive, waiting for others to tell them what to do.

Kim Langen | CEO & Co Founder

Outstanding Achievements:

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



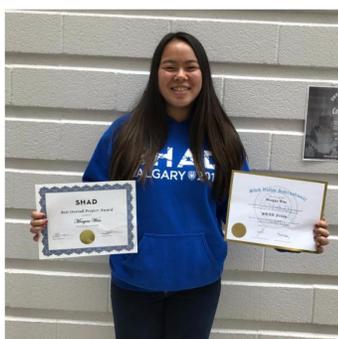
Richard Choi

Richard Choi, a grade 5 student, created a project, "Space Ringers" that demonstrated his understanding of Space using Science, Technology, Engineering and Math for the 5th Annual "What's Up in Space?" 2016 STEM Contest, and was awarded the Best Overall Project for the grade 4-6 category.



Nicholas Vettese

Nicholas Vettese, a grade 7 student, competed in the North American Youth Chess Championships in August. Nicholas competed in 9 rounds against Americans, Mexicans and other Canadians in the U12 category and finished first with 8 out of a possible 9 points. Since this was a regional tournament sponsored by the World Chess Federation, Nicholas earned the international title of FIDE Master.



Meagan Wan

Meagan Wan, a Grade 11 student, won the Shad Cup with her team with the Shad Valley STEM program at the University of Calgary. The team created and presented their product with a business plan to focus on the issue of food security. Her team will be attending the National Shad Cup in Toronto in October.

Kayley Ting

Kayley Ting, an alumni who graduated from grade 11 last year and a current assistant teacher, has won 2nd prize at the



European Union Contest for Young Scientist in Brussels, Belgium. She was part of the two-member Team Canada selected by Youth Science Canada to represent the country.

Spirit of Math Student Achievements

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

- Daniel Asadi, a grade 10 student, has won a gold medal in Short Track Speed Skating in the Provincial B & C Short Track Championship in Milton.
- Natalie Cheng, a grade 5 student, has achieved RCM Level 2.
- Clara Cui, a grade 5 student, has passed Advanced Rudiments Theory with first class honours.
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- Kourosh Danaie, a grade 6 student, has won a Black Belt, first Dan, in taekwondo.
- Manuela Dcunha, a grade 5 student, has passed the Royal Conservatory of Music Level 3 Piano exam with Honours.
- William Deng, a grade 6 student, is the champion of the Transition Tour Tournaments of the University of Toronto Scarborough for U12 in Tennis and has won a Bronze Medal in Vaughan House League Hockey.
- Hans Deng, a grade 4 student, is the champion of the Rogers Rookie of Mayfair Tournament for U10 and the champion of the Rogers Rookie of Mayfair Tournament for U12. He won 3rd place in the Bramalea Summer Send-off Tournament Provincial Circuit for U12, and 3rd place in the Caledon Cup Provincial Circuit for U12. He won 3rd place in the Transition Tour Tournaments of the University of Toronto Scarborough for U12 and is a champion in Vaughan House League Hockey.
- David Dobrin, a grade 7 student, received the Academic Achievement Award for finishing at the top of his grade in his day school.
- Zara Fasano, a grade 4 student, is a ballerina in the Canadian National Ballet. This year she will be in Certificate 3 and will be playing in the Nutcracker again this year as a lamb.
- Victoria Grignano, a grade 4 student, played a lead role in a summer theatre production in August and was the youngest actress to play a lead role.
- Vivienne Hanna, a grade 5 student, completed her grade 5 Royal Conservatory exam for cello with Honors.
- Azadeh Hemani, a grade 5 student, has won the U10 Most Sportsmanlike Award 2015-

2016 for playing for the TMS soccer and basketball teams.

- Charlotte Heung a grade 1 students' team with the Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association was invited to play during intermission at a World Cup of Hockey game at the Air Canada Centre. She took the face-off and scored the first goal for her team.
- Maxwell He, a grade 7 student, has won the 3rd Place, MUMBA Basketball Tournament, representing the York South Silver Knights Rep Basketball Team U12 in January 2016; he has also won the 4th Place Division 10 OBA Championship and was voted MVP by his coach. In addition, Maxwell has won 1st Place in Group A at the Toronto Tiger Golf Association Golf Tournament and he has been selected as for the basketball and volleyball teams at his day school.
- Avery Ho completed her first Kids Triathlon and finished in the top 10.
- Aiden Hunter, a grade 4 student, recently did a solo Kung Fu performance of Shao Lin Wan at the Chinatown Festival in August 2016 for his school, the Shaolin Temple Quanfa Institute of Canada. Aiden has been practicing Shaolin Kung Fu for 2 years and this was his first public solo performance.
- Amogh Iyengar, a grade 7 student, passed the guitar exam with Honors and Distinction.
- Andrew Jung, a grade 6 student, has won first place in the piano competition for Grade 8 - List C at the 2016 Peel Music Festival, second place in the piano competition for List B, and third place for List D. He won second place for Lists A and D at the 2016 Kiwanis Music Festival of Greater Toronto, achieved his black belt for Taekwondo, and acted in a performance of Snow White with the Meadowvale Theater Young Company.
- Angela Kaempfen, a grade 3 student, passed the Grade 3 Royal Conservatory exam in violin performance with Honours.
- Noora Kaisi a grade 4 student, has earned a certificate of achievement in Piano and Voice. She will be performing with her Junior Vocal Group at the First Kensington Jazz Festival in September.
- Marina Kelbas, a grade 5 student, has won a Black Belt in taekwondo.
- Amani Khattar a grade 4 student, successfully completed a 5K run at the RBC Race for the Kids, a charity run to fund Sunnybrook Hospital's Family Navigation project for youth mental health.
- Arohi Khattar, a grade 3 student, successfully completed a 5K run at the RBC Race for the Kids, a charity run to fund Sunnybrook Hospital's Family Navigation project for youth mental health.
- Brydie Killeen, a grade 3 student, recently completed level 7 in gymnastics at TD of Tumblers and was invited into the Advanced Rec Stream. She also recently completed level 6 in swimming at the University of Toronto.
- Chloe Kimball, a grade 4 student, achieved her Blue Belt in taekwondo.
- Kevin Kolyakov, a grade 5 student, successfully passed the Royal Conservatory of Music's Level 2 piano exam with Honours
- Jacob Kolyakov, a grade 8 student, won the Heart of York Newmarket 2016 soccer tournament with the Unionville rep soccer team.

- Jaayden Lam, a grade 4 student, has achieved First Class Honours with Distinction on his Level 1 piano exam.
- Yi Li, a grade 5 student, won first overall place in the Sunrype Tri Kids in Oakville.
- Aaron Liu, a grade 3 student, was selected to play on the Richmond Hill Coyotes AAA Hockey Team.
- Jocelyn Liu, a grade 6 student, has passed the Royal Conservatory of Music's Grade 10 Piano exam with First Class Honors with Distinction.
- Ishaan Malhotra, a grade 7 student, won the Craftsmanship Award at the Junior Solar Car Competition.
- Sabrina McLellon, a grade 9 student, was accepted to the United States Polo Association girls intercollegiate/interscholastic polo team. She achieved the Bronze Medallion swimming certification from the Lifesaving Society and also achieved the Diplome d'Etude en Langue Francaise Certification awarded by France's Ministry of Education to certify the French language competency of candidates outside France. She got her CanSail Level 2 Certification from the Canadian Yachting Association.
- Noah Melkonian, a grade 5 student, received his Blue Belt in taekwondo.
- Celina Mew, a grade 4 student, passed the grade 7 piano exam with First Class Honors at the Royal Conservatory of Music.
- Jonah Mickelson, a grade 8 student, made the Forest Hill baseball team and interned at a law firm this summer.
- Vlad Oprea, a grade 5 student, was a tennis champion at Ottawa Athletic Club in the Future Stars series tournament under the Ontario Tennis Association for boys under 10. He won all the matches without losing any sets. Vlad is currently ranked among the top 20 boys U10 in Ontario.
- Savita Perera, a grade 7 student, won the Silver Medal at the Provincials with the Richmond Hill Rebels Softball Select Team. She won First Class Honours with Distinction for her Grade 6 Piano Theory Examination and Honours for her Grade 6 Piano Practical Examination.
- Patricia Poiana, a grade 10 student, has passed her Advanced Rudiments exam at the Royal Conservatory of Music with First Class Honours with Distinction; she also completed the Certificate Program at for Level 7 piano with Honours. She won the Platinum Award at PACE for achieving an average of over 90%. Patricia won an award at the Sears Drama Festival for costume and set design.
- Yarik Popov, a grade 7 student, received a Brown Advanced Belt in Karate.
- Arjun Rao, a grade 8 student, and his soccer team won the Tournament Trophy at the Nottingham Cup in the United Kingdom.
- Ian Restuccia, a grade 4 student, passed his Level 2 Piano exam with Honours.
- Mitchell Schofield, a grade 11 student, was the Boys Jr. Athlete of the Year in Martingrove Collegiate Institute and he also won the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Silver Level. Based on his mark on the CEMC Cayley contest, Mitchell was invited to attend a CMS summer camp at uOttawa.

- Alexandru Serban, a grade 7 student, has passed the Grade 5 Piano exam at the Royal Conservatory of Music with Honours.
- Sabrina Seville, a grade 4 student, recently achieved 4th place in the regional horseback riding Hunter/Jumper division.
- Claire Shin, a grade 5 student, achieved 2nd place in the National Mathematics and Science Competition 2016 with the Association of Korean-Canadian Scientists and Engineers.
- Rohit Thirumala, a grade 7 student, has attained the 1st Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo
- Justin Tian, a grade 5 student, won the playoff championship of the Unionville minor hockey house league for the 2015-2016 season. He participated in the 2016 Ride for Heart and completed 50 kilometres. He has been selected for the school junior basketball team at his day school.
- Matthew Tong, a grade 3 student, has passed the Royal Conservatory of Music's Level 6 Piano Exam with First Class Honours. He won 2nd place in the Individual Mandarin Recital (Junior Division) in the 16th Chinese Art and Literacy Contest for Youth. Matthew won 3rd place in his school spelling bee.
- Nandan Varma, a grade 5 student, was selected for the school soccer team and became finalist in the interschool tournament.
- Amelie Vo, a grade 3 student, came 3rd in Locke Library's bookmark contest.
- Maverick Wang, a grade 4 student, won a Second Place in Violin S04A Grade 4, List A, at the North York 2016 Music Festival. He passed the Intermediate Rudiment music exam with Honours. He also won a Brown Belt in karate.
- Zack Wilson, a grade 8 student, won the Summer Men's Singles B Tennis Tournament at his home club, the Boulevard.
- Brian Yau Tam Sang, a grade 6 student, passed his grade 6 Royal Conservatory of Music Piano exam with First Class Honours.
- Samantha Yee, a grade 7 student, passed the Royal Conservatory of Music's grade 4 piano exam with Honours.
- Jerry Zhang, a grade 3 student, won 3rd place with his baseball team.
- Bonnie Zhang, a grade 4 student, passed the Royal Conservatory of Music's Grade 3 Piano Exam with First Class Honours with Distinction.

News & Events

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

International Innovation Challenge 2016!



Spirit of Math Schools is pleased to announce our participation and sponsorship in the International Innovation Challenge 2016! The competition focuses on the exciting field of data analytics, and is being organized and hosted by the Smith School of Business at Queen's University in collaboration with the Scotiabank Centre for Customer Analytics. [Read more](#)

[Click here to view the webcast](#)



Making the Profit 500 List

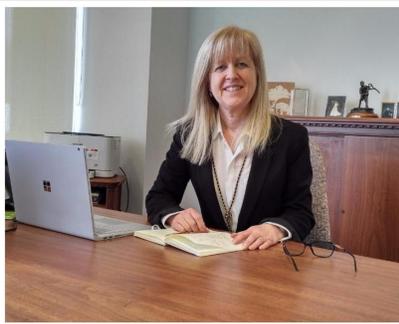
It's official! For the third year in a row, Spirit of Math Schools has been recognized by PROFIT 500 as one of Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies in 2016.

It is an honour to have placed 318th on this list alongside some of the most profitable start-ups and entrepreneurs in the country. [Read more](#)



Spirit of Math Opens Two New Permanent Campuses

Spirit of Math Schools is pleased to announce the opening of two new permanent campuses located at Markham West and in North Toronto (Leaside campus). [Read more](#)



Spirit of Math on Asian Television Network

Watch an interview of Kim Langen, our CEO & Co-Founder, on Sony and Aap Ka Colors.

Sony: October 6, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Aap Ka colours: October 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Learn more about our after-school math schools for high performing students, expansion plans and much more!



Spirit of Math Schools' Annual Conference

Our head office and the Delta Hotel Toronto played host to our annual Spirit of Math conference on September 22nd and 23rd. Teacher, campus personnel, and head office across Canada, the USA, and Pakistan were in attendance alongside our Co-Founder, Charles Ledger. [Read more](#)

Chess 'N' Math Sponsorship

Spirit of Math Schools is a proud sponsor of the Chess 'N'



Math Grand Halloween Tournament being held on October the 30th, 2016 and the Chess N' Math Grand Prix Tournament No. 1 being held on November 27th, 2016. Good luck to all participants!

Free Trial Class!

Help a fellow parent out and share the news of our incredible program.



*** FREE TRIAL CLASS**
Sept.10-Oct. 21, 2016 & Jan.7- Feb.17, 2017

Dear Parents of Spirit of Math Students,

Our Free Trial Class Campaign is in full swing! Our returning student have seen dozens of new faces in their classes these last few weeks as those thinking about joining Spirit of Math try a class to see just what we're about. The Free Trial Class Campaign will continue for another three weeks until October 21, 2016. Contact your local campus to arrange a trial class. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bring-a-Buddy Night is Fast Approaching!



Spirit of Math's annual Bring-a-Buddy Night is back! Students will have the opportunity to invite a friend to attend class with them and introduce them to the Spirit of Math program. Buddy Night will be in **week 9, October 29th to November 4th** for students in **grades 5-8 and 10**; and on **week 12, November 19th to 25th** for students in **grades 1-4, 9, and 11**. Invitations will be distributed in class as the big night approaches!

Congratulations to all the Spirit of Math students who made the National Math Contests Honour Rolls!

A complete list of all the students that participated and won awards can be found in the link below. If a participant's name is missing from the list, kindly send the details to the [Marketing Department](#) with the subject line "Missing Honour Roll". Please include the participant's full name, grade, score, and contest name."

<https://www.spiritofmath.com/math-contests/>

Now Hiring!

if you think you are creative, innovative and able to work well under pressure, you have come to the right place! We are hiring a full time Marketing Communication Specialist who has experience in creating marketing communication content, copy, public relations and social media. Salary offering above \$50,000 per year. For more details, please see [job description](#) and send your resume to the HR Manager [Kiera Henderson](#).

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STAY CONNECTED

