
PCSM NEWSLETTER

Leaders in Mathematics Education

February 2004

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

- Carolyn Marchand

The PCSM breakfast meeting previously scheduled for Thursday or Friday during the NCTM conference in Philadelphia has been cancelled [Note Change]. After considering the importance of your time and possible commitments during the conference, only the PCSM Executive Board meeting will be held, Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at 2:00 PM. The meeting room is being scheduled courtesy of NCSM. The next PCSM meeting will be held in Erie on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, in conjunction with the PCTM conference.

It is time to register for the NCSM (April 19-21, 2004) and NCTM (April 21-24, 2004) conferences to be held in Philadelphia. (See p. 5.) If you are not a member of NCSM, consider joining and attending session from leading educators, such as, Marilyn Burns, James Hiebert, Lena Licon Khysty, Steve Leinwand, Johnny Lott, James Rubillo, Zalman Usiskin, and more.

Please check the date on the mailing label on the envelope of the newsletter. If the date is 2004 (04) or earlier, it is time to renew your membership. Save money by renewing for three years. If each of us signs up a new member, our membership will double!

Additional expenses for rooms are somewhat offset since tickets for luncheons and receptions are included with registration. Sessions begin 8:00 AM on Monday with the Opening Session at 3:30 PM and the closing luncheon 12:30 PM on Wednesday. NCSM Membership is \$55/year until May 1, 2004, when dues will increase to \$75.

Congratulations to John Martin, who was featured in "In the Spotlight" in the Fall 2003 issue of the *NCSM Newsletter*. We know him as not only a leader in mathematics, but also as a highly qualified educator who is willing to give his time whenever and wherever his expertise is needed. As a member of the PCSM and PCTM executive boards, John discusses current trends and concerns for mathematics education locally, statewide, and nationally.

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If you plan to attend the NCSM or

NCTM conferences, please consider volunteering one or two hours of your time. Contact the key people through the Web sites or volunteer when you get to Philadelphia and finalize your schedule. This is a great way to network and become involved.

PCTM will provide a table for PCTM and its affiliates to promote membership and activities during the NCTM conference. If you can give time to this activity, please contact me at the email address below. I will be happy to place you in the schedule.

Thanks,

Carolyn Marchand
(814) 362-7324
marchand@pennswoods.net

Included with this newsletter:

- ◆ Governor's Institute in Mathematics (information and application)
- ◆ IMAGES (Improving Measurement and Geometry in Elementary Schools) Summer Institute (information and application)
- ◆ Mathematically Sane - Promoting the rational reform of mathematics education (information)
- ◆ NCSM Summer Leadership Academies (information)
- ◆ No Child Left Behind Act: Assessment and Data Requirement...the Sequel - One-Day Workshop Presented by PA Educational Research Association (information and application)
- ◆ Technology in Mathematics and Science Education - Research for Better Schools Conference (application)

From the Editor

- Arlene Dowshen

I wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you in April in Philadelphia for the NCSM and NCTM conferences. The conferences should have many interesting and stimulating sessions to attend. I welcome all of you to Philadelphia, my hometown! Make sure that you sample some of the superb restaurants and visit the wonderful museums and historical sites. The new Constitution Center is a must as is the Liberty Bell in its new setting. The NCTM Hospitality Committee (chaired by Hank Field) will have information about the exciting things to do in Philadelphia.

Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged and welcome. Any correspondence can be sent to me at:

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Chester, PA 19013
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NCTM Representative Report

It's not too late to apply for an NCTM Affiliate Grant! The Mathematics Education Trust (MET) Board of Trustees awards the Kenneth B. Cummins Award to NCTM Affiliates. The purpose of an MET-funded grant is to support affiliates in building membership and revenues, in promoting innovative projects that help NCTM and its affiliates become more visible to the public and educational partners, and in supporting the initiatives of NCTM. The grant may be written in either the area of professional development or affiliate development.

There are two types of grants for which affiliates may apply:

Professional Development (\$1500 maximum)
Affiliates may use these grants to (1) implement and disseminate the message of *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* or (2) improve communication that would be used to promote the mission of NCTM in governmental and legislative areas.

Affiliate Development (\$750 maximum)
Affiliates may use these grants to (1) support strategic planning activities that relate to the NCTM Legislative Platform or (2) create vehicles for affiliates to provide support to sponsored affiliates, including student affiliates.

There is plenty of time to apply as the deadline for grant applications is June 1, 2004. Log on to <http://www.nctm.org/affiliates/resources>; go to "Downloads and Forms," then "Grants and Awards," and finally "Affiliate Grants 2004 Guidelines and Application." Good luck! May a member of PCSM win a Kenneth B. Cummins Award!

Ann Massey
PCSM's NCTM Representative

PCSM AWARDS

In the spring of 2004 PCSM will hold an Executive Board meeting in conjunction with the NCSM Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The next meeting of PCSM will be at the site of the PCTM 53rd Annual Meeting in Erie in October 2004. PCSM awards will be presented at that time.

Nominations for PCSM awards are welcome at any time. Awards are presented for **Outstanding Contributions to PCSM**, **Outstanding Contributions to Supervision**, and the **Supervisor Hall of Fame Award**. To nominate a colleague for an award, simply specify which award and give a summary of the individual's professional background and contributions to PCSM and/or the field of supervision. Also indicate whether you would wish to participate in the presentation ceremony at the PCSM meeting.

Previous winners of the Hall of Fame Award include: Doris Creswell, Donald Scheuer, Dr. Alan Barson, Dr. Alex Tobin, Genevieve Battisto, David Marchand, Fred Stewart, Dr. Ann Bacon, Dr. Frank Sottile, Dr. Al Mauthe, Frank Reardon, and Dr. Lois Barson.

We certainly have many dedicated professionals who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding work, but it is only through the efforts of members who take the time to make a nomination that we have the opportunity to reward the special leaders. Nominations for 2004 awards may be submitted at any time but not later than September 1, 2004.

Nominations should be sent to:
Gen Battisto, PCSM Awards Chair
37 Reeder Street
Mt. Pocono, PA 18344
genb@pnpa.net
570-839-7152.

Benjamin Banneker Association

The Benjamin Banneker Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to provide a forum for mathematics educators, mathematics organizations, and mathematicians to discuss the teaching and learning of mathematics to African-American children. The membership is open to all who have a profound interest in the mathematics education of African-American children.

The Benjamin Banneker Association in the Northeast Region (BBA/NE) would like to encourage present members and new members to participate in achieving the goals of

- (a) serving as an advocate for the educational and developmental needs of African-American children,
- (b) providing policy and educational solutions for issues which affect the participation and success of African-American students in the learning of mathematics, and
- (c) serving the educational and professional needs of its membership.

BBA/NE plans to develop position papers on the teaching and learning of mathematics, policy decisions, professional development, and mathematics education reform which all affect the learning process of African-American students. These papers will help educators as they help African-American students reach parity in opportunities to study and achieve in mathematics.

In conjunction with NCTM the Benjamin Banneker Association will be presenting mini-sessions on Saturday, April 24, 2004, from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at Temple University Center City Campus. The theme is

“Mathematics and Civil Rights: How far have we come since Brown vs. Board of Education.”

For further information on membership or attending the mini-session contact:

Doyt Jones

BBA/ Northeast Representative

215-732-4814

djones@ti.com

Technology in Mathematics and Science Education

March 15-16, 2004

Hershey, PA

This conference is being presented by the Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium at Research for Better Schools (RBS) and the PA State Team for Mathematics and Science Education.

If you are a teacher, curriculum coordinator, professional developer, or a school or district administrator who wants to increase your knowledge of technology integration in K-12 mathematics and science instruction, then this conference is for you.

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in several general sessions and many small group sessions. They will receive valuable hands-on information on the educational uses of technology in mathematics and science, including computers and computer software, basic and graphing calculators, scientific probes, Internet use in planning lessons and with students in the classroom, Web site development, distance learning, and much more! We will also examine technology and the No Child Left Behind Act.

To register visit: <http://www.rbs.org/mathsci/states/pa/conference/2004/index.shtml> or use the application included with this newsletter.

Upcoming Conferences and Events:**NCTM Academy for Professional Development 2004**

Attend an NCTM workshop and experience the dynamics of a standards-based classroom.

For more information visit: www.nctm.org.

NCSM 36th Annual Conference Philadelphia: A Tradition of Leadership

April 19-21, 2004, Philadelphia, PA

For more information visit: ncsmonline.org.

NCTM 82nd Annual Meeting Defining Mathematics for All

April 21-24, 2004, Philadelphia, PA

For more information go to www.nctm.org.

The Show-Me Project - NSF-Funded Standards-Based Middle Grades Mathematics Curriculum Materials

May 6-7, 2004, Nashville, TN

For more information about the curricula to be showcased, see the Show-Me Center Web site:

<http://showmecerter.missouri.edu>. For more information about the conference visit: <http://showmecerter.missouri.edu/2004conference>.

CPTM (Center for Proficiency in Teaching Mathematics) 2004 Summer Institute - Developing Teachers' Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching

June 5-12, 2004, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact Teresa McMahan

(teresam@umich.edu) for application information.

T³ (Teachers Teaching with Technology) College Short Course Program and the AMATYC Summer Institute Program - Developmental Algebra Using a Function Approach

June 13-18, 2004, Duck, North Carolina

For more information visit

www.math.ohio-state.edu/shortcourse/.

U.S. Conference on CAS (Computer Algebra Systems) in Secondary Mathematics

June 19-20, 2004, Glenview, IL

On-line registration and information is available at <http://www4.glenbrook.k12.il.us/USACAS/2004.html>.

10th International Congress on Mathematics Education (ICME)

July 4-11, 2004, Copenhagen, Denmark

For information visit www.ICME-10.dk.

IMAGES (Improving Measurement and Geometry in the Elementary School) 2004 Summer Institute

July 7-9, 2004, Harrisburg, PA

For more information visit <http://www.rbs.org/mathsci/states/pa/images.shtml>. Also see information and application included with the newsletter.

NCSM Summer Leadership Academies

July 28-31, 2004, Park City, Utah

For more information contact Leadership Academy Director, Jim Bohan, at mathmanjfb@aol.com. Also see flyer included with newsletter.

PCSM Annual Conference

October 27, 2004

Erie, PA

PCTM Annual Conference**Explore EERIE Math in Erie**

October 27-29, 2004, Erie, PA

For more information visit: www.pctm.org

The February 2004 issue of *Riptides* includes spring and summer professional development opportunities in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. To access this electronic newsletter, visit www.rbs.org/index.shtml; click on "Headlines" and then scroll down to E-News, [Riptides Email News](#), and follow directions.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Teaching Reading in Mathematics

Published by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), this publication is part of a series of books on teaching reading in the content areas. Visit www.mcrel.org or www.ascd.org.

Literature in High School Mathematics

This online issue of *ENC Focus* offers suggestions for selecting and using children's literature in the mathematics and science classroom. Numerous teacher resources are listed. Visit <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/mathlit/>.

PROPORTIONAL REASONING

This page of NCTM's *Illuminations* Web site contains a complete lesson plan on rational numbers and proportion. Visit <http://illuminations.nctm.org/lessonplans/6-8/rationalnumbers/index.html>.

One area of research of the Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education is middle-school students' understanding of ratio and proportion. Papers and presentations on proportional reasoning available on their Web site are: "Thought and Action in Context: An Emerging Perspective of Teacher Preparation," "Analyzing Teacher's Conception of Ratio and Proportion in the Context of Mass/Mole Relationship," and "Development of an Instrument to Measure Proportional Reasoning among Fast Track Middle School Students." Visit www.ncsu.edu/crmse/proportional_reasoning.html.

Visit www.ohiorc.org/browse/mathematics/ for links to lesson plans on proportional reasoning. Click on "Browse Resources by Topic" and then scroll down to "Rates, Ratio, Proportion."

American Schools in Crisis? Debating "No Child Left Behind"

View PBS's (Public Broadcasting Service) *Now* with Bill Moyers at <http://www.pbs.org/now/society/nclb.html>. Bill Moyers looks at the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and how these new measures will impact education. Other sources of information on this legislation include:

The Center on Education Policy

(<http://www.cep-dc.org/>)

The Center for Education Reform

(<http://edreform.com/index.html>)

Developing Educational Standards

(<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>)

The National Center for Fair and Open Testing

(<http://www.fairtest.org/>)

National Education Association

(<http://www.nea.org/esea/nearesources-esea.html>)

Singapore Math

Check out the Web site for Singapore Math: <http://www.questationmath.com/home.php>.

"Improving Educational Research: Toward a More Useful, More Influential and Better-Funded Enterprise"

by Hugh Burkhardt and Alan H. Schoenfeld, *Educational Researcher* (Volume 32, Number9, December 2003, pp. 3-14) is available for downloading at <http://www.aera.net/pubs/er/toc/3209.htm>.

The Lighter Side of Math-related News: Using the Results of the Super Bowl and the Summer Olympics to determine the outcome of the Presidential Election

Do econometric models explain presidential elections or do those who devise the models just play with figures until they stumble upon a formula that fits the curve of a handful of election results? Visit <http://slate.msn.com/id/83375/sidebar/83381/> for a model that correctly predicts the winner of every election since the first Super Bowl.

Celebrate Pi Day March 14, 2004

Science teachers celebrate Mole Day, October 23, to commemorate Avogadro's Number and English teachers celebrate Shakespeare's birthday on April 23. Mathematics teachers celebrate Pi Day on March 14, the birthday of Albert Einstein and Waclaw Sierpinski. Some celebrations of Pi Day occur at 1:59 PM (3.14159).

How many digits of pi can you recite? Can you make the 100 club? Do you have a pi T-shirt? (Visit www.scienceteacher.com.)

Visit www.enc.org/cc/ and click on the March calendar to find links to activities for Pi Day and the history and development of this important mathematical concept.

February Happenings

Square Root Day

February 2, 2004 (2/2/04) is a "square root day." An article in the San Jose *Mercury News* reported that "Redwood City High School teacher Ron Gordon hopes people across the country will start celebrating Square Root Day, which occurs whenever the numbers representing the month and day both are the square root of the last two digits of the year." (<http://www.mercurynews.com>) When was the last square root day and when will the next one occur?

Leap Year Problem

This year, February has five Sundays. In what year will this next occur? Is the interval between five-Sunday-February years always the same? Why or why not? For virtual perpetual calendars visit http://www.vpcalendar.net/Year_Correlations.html.

Improving Achievement in Math and Science

The theme of the February 2004 issue of *Educational Leadership* is improving achievement in math and science. The titles of the articles related to mathematics are listed below. The first three are available online free of charge (<http://www.ascd.org>).

"A Vision for Mathematics" by William H. Schmidt

"Improving Mathematics Teaching" by James W. Stigler and James Hiebert

"Perspectives/Love and Hate for Math and Science" by Marge Scherer

"A Deeper Look at Lesson Study" by Catherine Lewis, Rebecca Perry, and Jacqueline Hurd

"What Is High-Quality Instruction?" by Iris R. Weiss and Joan D. Pasley

"Teaching Number Sense" by Sharon Griffin

"Marvelous Math!" by Alfred. S. Posamentier

"The Networked Classroom" by Jeremy Roschelle, William R. Penuel, and Louis Abrahamson

"The Arithmetic Gap" by Tom Loveless and John Coughlan

"Why Mathematics Textbooks Matter" by Barbara J. Reys, Robert E. Reys, and Oscar Chavez

"Math Acceleration for All" by Carole C. Curris, Jay P. Heubert, and Henry M. Levin

"Creating a Differentiated Mathematics Classroom" by Richard Strong, Ed Thomas, Matthew Perini, and Harvey Silver

"Closing the Minority Achievement Gap in Math" by John H. Holloway