

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS
IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, AN AFFILIATED
GROUP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

MATHWEST NEWS

JANUARY 2003 Volume 16, Issue 1

*Test Your
Luck and
Play the Odds!*

Inside this
edition:

★ Registration
form for the outing
to Mohegan Sun

★ The Mary Alice
Wilson Grant
Application

★ Information on
a free practice
session for the AP
Calculus Exam

★ A report on the
symposium
presenting the
work of the
Mathematics
Learning Study

OUR JANUARY GET-TOGETHER Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun

January 17, 2003



MATHWEST will be sponsoring an evening out with a
trip to

Mohegan Sun Casino on Friday, January 17th. It is open to all
MATHWEST members and their guests.

The bus will leave the parking lot next to Pier I in Holyoke at 5 PM.
It will leave the Casino at 11 PM.

The cost will be \$20 per person for the evening. However, each atten-
dee will receive a \$10 food voucher and a \$10 gam-
bling voucher.



Mark your calendar now and mail your check today so
you don't miss this great outing. Registration deadline
is January 8th.

Look inside

Table of Contents

Resources & Professional Opportunities	2
Calendar of Events	3
Mary Alice Wilson Grant Application	6

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.wgby.org/edu

and click on Teacherline and Professional Development

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AP Calculus AB/BC Practice Exam Session Saturday, April 12, 2003

MATHWEST is pleased to announce that it has approved a proposal to provide an exam atmosphere for students in Western Massachusetts to take and receive a score for the 1998 AP Calculus exam as practice for the actual exam scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2003.

Any AP Calculus students in Western Massachusetts accompanied by their calculus instructor (who will assist in grading) will be invited to attend the session. Both the Calculus AB and Calculus BC exam will be given.

Invitations to various calculus teachers and their classes will be sent via email, in letters sent to various schools, and through publication in the MATHWEST newsletter. The practice exam will take place in a church hall in Agawam.

Students will start with the open response problems, followed by the multiple-choice sections. This is done to allow time for the instructors to grade the open response problems while the multiple choice sections are administered. Following test administration, lunch will be served while scores are computed. Following lunch, the scored exams will be returned to students, along with answer keys, and feedback.

The practice exam would be held Saturday, April 12th at 9 AM. It is held early to allow for the exam to be reviewed in the students' classes. The Easter holiday and April Vacation also occur very

CALCULUS SUPPORT GROUP

The AP Calculus support group will continue its monthly meetings at Bertucci's Pizzeria in West Springfield usually on the Third Tuesday of each month at 4 PM. Any current or future teacher of calculus is encouraged and welcome to attend. The only requirement is MATHWEST membership. To get more information, calculus resources, or emails about future meetings, contact Scott at SLTrahan@aol.com.

NCTM 81st Annual Meeting



April 9-12, 2003
San Antonio, Texas

"Building Mathematical Communities"

Hosted by: Alamo District Council of Teachers of
Mathematics

Opening Session begins at 5:30 p.m.
on Wednesday, April 9th

Closing Session begins at 2:00 p.m.
on Saturday, April 12th

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Center for Initiatives in Pre-College Education Invites you to join their three summer MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL SCIENCE

This program leads to an MS degree in three successive summers on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The program emphasizes teachable content, pedagogies and technologies for secondary school classrooms. In addition to the specific courses in the discipline of the teacher, a spirit of collaborative learning will be fostered in core courses of educational technologies. Teachers spend six weeks during each summer and take three courses earning ten credits. During the semesters between summers, all participants will be networked through a server on campus dedicated to this program.

Educational technology is a theme in all three summers of the program and includes instruction in computers and other technologies; WWW access and design; interactive multimedia, and robotics.

For more information, contact Linda Fedigan, CII 9217, RPI, 110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180 or email her at cipce@rpi.edu. You can also visit their website, www.cipce.rpi.edu/go/msns.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Hey Folks! It's time to renew your membership to MATHWEST. As of September 30th, there were over 236 active members on our rolls. However, we are still waiting for over 130 members to renew.

Membership does have its privileges. Besides receiving our quarterly newsletters, you also gain membership in ATMNE, and receive a copy of their mathematics journals. All members are also invited to our two general membership meetings a year, which include dinner at a reduced cost. Members are also eligible to apply for the Mary Alice Wilson grants, take part in the calculus support groups, and other activities and professional development opportunities that we plan. Membership is a great way to meet other mathematics teachers in Western Massachusetts.

Renewing your membership is simple! Just complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter and send it along with your check for \$15 to MATHWEST, P.O. Box 784, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Memberships also make great gifts for those new teachers in your mathematics department.

THE SPIDER'S WEB *Web Resources for Math*



Ask Dr. Math

mathforum.org/library/drmath/drmath.middle.html

This website specializes in helping middle school students with their math. Search the archive to find any type of problem or lesson. Parents should check out the educational software Dr. Math creates.

Brain Bashers

www.brainbashers.com

This site has a lot of brainteasers as well as games, mazes, puzzles, and illusions to choose from.

Cool Math

www.coolmath.com

Visit this fun, interactive website. It has extensive problems, puzzles, games, and homework guidance for students, as well as a wealth of teacher and parent resources.

Dave's Math Table

www.math2.org/index.xml

Full collection of math tables. Also has a Spanish/English math dictionary and a place to post math questions and access math help.



MATHWEST

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

10th ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting
Lyn Heady's House, 4 PM

14th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

17th ~ MATHWEST Get-Together
Mohegan Sun Casino

February

1st ~ Mary Alice Wilson Grant
Deadline for Proposals

11th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

March

11th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

16th ~ Spring Membership Meeting, 4 PM
Topic: "March into Measurement"
Location: To Be Announced

April

9th - 12th ~ NCTM Annual Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

12th ~ AP Calculus AB/BC Practice Exam
First Baptist Church, Agawam

15th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HELPING CHILDREN LEARN MATHEMATICS

In September of this year, about 350 professionals from about forty states gathered at a symposium held in the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington D.C. I felt very privileged to be included as a classroom teacher. This symposium presented the work of the Mathematics Learning Study, a committee of the National Research Council.

In 1998, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education asked the National Research Council to conduct a study of what research says about successful mathematics learning from the preschool years through eighth grade. Their charge was to synthesize research, make recommendations for teaching, teacher education, and curriculum, and to guide educators, researchers, publishers, policy makers, and parents.

The recommendations from this research resulted in a five-strand definition of **proficiency**, what it means for anyone to learn math successfully.

For students to be proficient, they need to be working simultaneously on all five strands so even though the stands are presented in a certain order, no hierarchy is attached to that order.

1. **Understanding**: comprehending mathematical concepts, operations, and relationships
2. **Computing**: carrying out mathematical procedures with fluency
3. **Applying**: formulating problems and devising strategies
4. **Reasoning**: using logic to explain and justify: extend from something known to something not yet known
5. **Engaging**: seeing mathematics as sensible, useful, and doable

The research synthesis that resulted in the five-strand definition of proficiency addresses issues raised in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It provides research based teaching methods, curriculum and strong suggestions for teacher education. Its influence on state and national assessment is sure to be substantial.

Two publications resulted from this study. *Adding it Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics* (\$29.95) and a shorter, more reader friendly version, *Helping Children learn Mathematics*. (\$10.00). These

books are available through National Academy Press at www.nap.edu. Also, Nancy Strouse, a MATHWEST member, has prepared a power point presentation highlighting this material and will email it to you upon request to nancyst@attbi.com.

THIS SECTION OF MATHWEST NEWS DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF MATHWEST OR ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE ARTICLES ARE REPRINTED HERE TO ENLIGHTEN OUR MEMBERSHIP ABOUT WHAT WAS RECENTLY PRINTED IN THE MEDIA ABOUT MATHEMATICS EDUCATION.

BONUS TEACHERS OPT OUT Boston Globe, 01 December 2002 (p.C12)

An analysis of Massachusetts' three-year-old fast-track training program for non-educators has found that nearly half of the people who entered the program in 1999 are no longer teaching.

The program awards \$20,000 in bonuses to people accepted into the program after they complete eight weeks of summer training and classroom work. The bonuses are awarded over four years; those who abandon the classroom before the four years are up also forfeit the remainder of their bonus.

The attrition rate in the second year of the program is closer to 28 percent. And of those "bonus babies" who began teaching last year, 17 percent have left.

Clark Fowler, the Salem State College professor who is tracking the program, estimated that the state spent \$934,750 on the 74 teachers who went through the program and left.

State Department of Education officials stand by the plan, noting that, beginning next year, bonus recipients must complete one year of training at a designated college or university. The state made the change in response to criticism that bonus recipients were poorly prepared for the rigors of teaching.



A NOTE ABOUT ELECTIONS

This year MATHWEST needed to fill three positions on the Board of Directors. Thankfully, with no other candidates willing to serve, the three people filling those positions have graciously offered to keep their seats on the board. They are Cindy Tuthill, Nancy Strouse, and Donna Watson.

All of these members have taken an active role in MATHWEST and have served as advocates for the special concerns that need to be addressed in Massachusetts and the New England region regarding mathematics education. Cindy will continue on as treasurer for our organization, making sure all our financial obligations are met. Nancy will serve in the position of historian for the association. Finally, making sure our membership is accurate is Donna, the membership chair.

We also like to welcome Dr. Louise M. Lataille, who will serve as our new president. She will be taking over the role of Lyn Heady who has served a distinguished term as President of MATHWEST.

MATHWEST, however, is encouraging its members to seek out a role on our Board of Directors. Currently, we would like to have better representation from the Berkshires. If interested, please contact a current board member.

MATHWEST GET-TOGETHER



Mohegan Sun Casino
January 17, 2003
Leaving at 5 PM

It's time to try your luck, while meeting other mathematics teachers from Western Massachusetts. Our January Get-Together is to *Mohegan Sun Casino*, on January 17th.

The bus will leave the Pier 1 parking lot across from Barnes and Noble at 5 PM, and arrive at the casino about 6:20 PM. Everyone who attends will receive a \$20 voucher, \$10 food voucher and \$10 for gambling. The bus will leave the casino at approximately 11:30 PM, and arrive back in Holyoke at approximately 1 AM.

The cost of the trip is \$20 per person, and the event is open to all MATHWEST members and their guests. Space is limited, so its on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please contact Cindy Tuthill at teach12753@charter.net. Hurry! Deadline for your registration is January 8th.



REGISTRATION:

Fill out the form to the right and send it, along with your check payable to MATHWEST, to:

MATHWEST
C/O Cindy Tuthill
2205 Boston Road Unit H-70
Wilbraham, MA 01095

DIRECTIONS:

To meet the bus, take Interstate 91 to the Ingleside Exit (Holyoke Mall). The commuter lot next to Pier I in Holyoke is located at the entrance to the Holyoke Mall, right before the railroad bridge on the left hand side.

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

How many people will be attending? _____
(\$20 per person)

Total Enclosed: _____

Note: If you need to renew your membership, please also fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter.

THE MARY ALICE WILSON GRANT

GRANT APPLICATION

While associated with The Five College/Public School Partnership, Mary Alice Wilson was instrumental in the first PIMMS Initiative from which the decision to fund MATHWEST originated. The Mary Alice Wilson Grant is funded by MATHWEST, The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Western Massachusetts, for the purpose of enhancing mathematics understanding and appreciation in grades K—16. Grants are awarded annually for up to \$500 per project, \$1000 per year. All members of MATHWEST are eligible to receive the award.

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____



Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

School System: _____

School Name: _____

Years of

Teaching Experience: _____

Amount Requested: _____

*Please return proposals by **October 1, 2002 or February 1, 2003**. Grants are reviewed and awarded in November and March with the final report due by November or March of the following year.*

Return proposal to:

**Nancy Strouse
MATHWEST**

PO Box 784

Easthampton, MA 01027

Proposals can also be emailed to Nancy as an attachment at nancyst@attbi.com.

Summarize your proposal on no more than two pages and include:

- A. goals and objectives
- B. the population to be served
- C. tasks to complete the project
- D. timeline
- E. evaluation instrument
- F. how it will affect the MATHWEST membership
- G. project budget



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Dr. Louise M. Lataille (03-04)
21 Maple Street
Chicopee Falls, MA 01020
Tel: (413) 592-7120
louiselat@juno.com

Past President

Lyn Heady (03)
P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027
Tel: (413) 584-7041
lheady@hotmail.com

Secretary

Liz Kosior (02-03)
158 Corey Colonial
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: (413) 786-1388
LSKosior@aol.com

Treasurer

Cindy Tuthill (03-04)
2205 Boston Road H-70
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Tel: (413) 596-3120
teach12753@charter.net

Board

Ellen Follett (02-03)
85 Kelly Drive
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel: (413) 736-1614
follett@wspss.org

Marnie Henneman (02-03)
PO Box 993
Belchertown, MA 01007
Tel: (413) 323-5211

Barbara Martowski (02-03)
965 Ware Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 283-8995
bmartows@aol.com

Nancy Strouse (03-04)
89 Lower Massachusetts Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel: (413) 737-3403
nancyst@attbi.com

Donna Watson (03-04)
55 Ridgecrest Circle
Westfield, MA 01085
Tel: (413) 568-3914
dmwatson55@aol.com

EX-OFFICIO BOARD

William Chandler
119 Chantilly Ave.
North Adams, MA 01247
Tel: (413) 664-6705
chandlerww@aol.com

Harold (Spike) Clancy
2244 Baptist Hill Road
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 289-0085
sclancy@crocker.com

Sarah Cothran
WGBY-TV
44 Hampden Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Tel: (413) 781-2801
Fax: (413) 731-5093
scothran@wgby.org

William Masalski
25 Cherry Lane
Amherst, MA 01002
Tel: (413) 549-6978
william.masalski@educ.umass.edu

Ruth O'Malley
1085 Pleasant Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 283-3386
romal@mail.ccsinet.net

COMMITTEES

Historian

Nancy Strouse

Mary Alice Wilson Grant

Nancy Strouse

Membership

Donna Watson

NCTM Representative

Ruth O'Malley

ATMNE Representative

Cindy Tuthill

Newsletter Editor

Scott L. Trahan
Agawam High School
760 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: (413) 821-0530 (W)
Tel: (413) 789-2292 (H)
SLTrahan@aol.com

NE Mathematics Journal

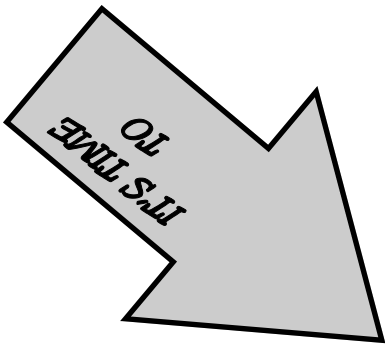
Editorial Advisor

Charles Tranfield
10 Homer Avenue
Keene, NH 03431

Position Open

The Board of Directors of MATHWEST is looking for an energetic and creative person to take on the role of Newsletter Editor starting in January 2003. The person would publish approximately four eight-page newsletters, helping to promote mathematics education while increasing communication between teachers in Western Massachusetts. A small stipend is offered.

Interested persons should contact:
SLTrahan@aol.com for more details.



MATHWEST NEWS

P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027

MATHWEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mail to: MATHWEST, P.O. Box 784, Easthampton, MA 01027

Membership Category:

- _____ 1 Year Regular (\$15)
- _____ 1 Year Full-Time Student (\$5)
- _____ 1 Year Full-Time Retired (\$10)
- _____ 3 Year Regular (\$40)

Area of Professional Interest:

- _____ Elementary
- _____ Middle School
- _____ Secondary
- _____ College

Application Type:

- _____ New Membership
- _____ Renewal

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Are you a member of NCTM? YES NO

A member of another NCTM affiliate? YES NO If yes, which one? _____

Please: If paying by PO, please include the names and addresses of members to be renewed.