



# PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

January

2008

Editor: Cathy Attard, email [cathyattard@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cathyattard@ozemail.com.au)  
Office: Kent Road Public School, PO Box 339, North Ryde NSW 1670  
Tel. (02) 9878 1487 Fax (02) 9878 1675 Email [office@mansw.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@mansw.nsw.edu.au)  
Office hours: Monday-Friday 10.00am- 4.00pm  
Web-site: [www.mansw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au)

## Calendar 2008

### January

31 PAM committee meeting, 5.00pm,  
MANSW office.

### March

6.....PAM committee meeting, 5:00pm,  
MANSW Office

27 PAM Inservice  
*Take a Chance*, Glenwood

### April

1.....PAM committee meeting, 5:00pm,  
MANSW Office

### May

5.....PAM committee meeting, 5:00pm,  
MANSW Office

22 PAM Inservice  
*Fun and Games*, Glenmore Park

During the holidays MANSW has been preparing for 2008. Teachers of Early Stage 1

up to year 10 will be pleased to know that plans are in place for 2008 inservice opportunities and similarly preparation for a fresh set of written material is in underway. The first inservice opportunity for Primary teachers will be titled '*take a chance*' and it is being presented at Glenwood. Early registration is recommended to avoid disappointment! It will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. .... places are limited.

All members find relevant, innovative and practical presentations at our ever popular Annual Conference. 2008 MANSW conference may break the record for early closure of placements so please make plans now if you are to attending. We'd love to see you there, at North Wollongong, from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. As usual, MANSW membership entitles you to substantially discounted registration so please ensure that your membership is current. Further details of the conference will be posted on our website. Other important information on the website includes Luna Park dates, forthcoming publications and other conferences.

The Premier's Teacher Scholarship to teachers working in any school or TAFE in NSW includes funding for overseas and travel we have been advised that Mathematics is being targeted area for 2008. Your 1000 word proposal needs to be ready for submission very early term 2.

## From the President

To all MANSW members... Happy New Year! I trust that your end of year holidays were relaxing and that you're ready now to tackle the 2008 school year with renewed vigour.

This will be a busy year. More and more members are regular readers of MANSW e-news which gives up to date information between Newsletter postings. We are trialling video records of presentations. If you have particular expertise in this or some other area that you'd like to offer, without making a commitment to regular attendance at meetings, please contact MANSW office. I wish all members a fruitful and rewarding school year and look forward to seeing you at a MANSW sponsored event .

DAVID KEANAN BROWN,  
President

## Primary Program

The Primary Committee has planned another sequence of practical, enjoyable and challenging inservice sessions for 2008. The Term 1 meeting will focus on an overview of the Chance strand and the demonstration of small group activities which encourage questioning, discussion, expression, experimentation and the collection and organisation of data. We are expecting our first inservice afternoon *Take a Chance* on 27<sup>th</sup> March to fill very quickly. Please organise and send in your registration and payment as soon as possible.

**Term 1** – 27 March, *Take a Chance*  
at Holy Cross Primary School, Glenwood.

**Term 2** – 22 May, *Fun and Games: Card games and dice games*, Caroline Chisholme College, Glenmore Park

**Term 3** – 14 August, *Measurement matters*

**Term 4** – 30 October, *Linking maths to life*

If your school would like to host an inservice afternoon in Terms 3 or 4, please contact Diane McPhail or the MANSW office.

## Count Me In Too 2008

We have received several requests for *Count Me In Too* training early in 2008. Currently, we have interested schools from the Penrith area, and also the Eastern Suburbs. If your school is

interested in registering a school team for *Count Me In Too* training, please contact Diane McPhail (diane.mcphail@optusnet.com.au) for further details. The duration and cost of the *Count Me In Too* course have recently been revised. The course will now consist of one full day of initial training and two follow-up workshops each of two hours. The cost will be \$440 per teacher or \$2,200 for a team of six teachers. The course fee will include the provision of essential teacher resources.

DIANE McPHAIL  
Primary Program Manager

### 2008 MANSW Conference at Novotel, North Wollongong 19-21 September 2008

Remember to put the conference into your school calendar and professional development budget. A call for presentations and brief information is enclosed in this Newsletter. Watch future Newsletters and the website for more details and registration information.



**Did you find the choice of sessions at the Conference so great this year that you had to miss some that you would have liked to attend?**

Look on the MANSW website [www.mansw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au) to see if the presentation notes are available for the sessions you are interested in.

### Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Yue Yan Chan of Cherrybrook. Congratulations Yue Yan, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

## Primary Publications

In 2008 the primary publications team will endeavour to meet the needs and requests of our members through the Newsletter, PAMphlets, and Square One. However we need our members support via contributions and suggestions.

**Newsletter:** Cathy Attard would welcome snippets and news regarding mathematics in your school or region. What is your class, school or region doing to promote the learning of mathematics. Or what little mathematics oddity or trick do you have that can be shared?

**PAMphlet:** Jim Grant and Ed Lewis are always seeking authors and ideas for PAMphlets to add to the already impressive range of teaching resources available in this series. Is there a topic that needs treatment?

**Square One:** The editorial team encourages members to contribute by sending in favourite classroom worksheets, ideas, or requests. What about becoming a Square One reporter and interview a teacher (or yourself) for the Teachers Page. Just email Allan on [al.white@uws.edu.au](mailto:al.white@uws.edu.au) (Subject: Teacher Page) and he will send you the interview page.

**Dry Rot:** Do you wish to be immortalised by having your name included in a Dry Rot cartoon? If you have a funny classroom incident involving mathematics or just teaching then send it in to [al.white@uws.edu.au](mailto:al.white@uws.edu.au) (Subject: Dry Rot) and our cartoonist will draw it up and somehow included your name, then send to you for approval before publication. Contributors should be warned that the cartoonist is a very poor artist so do not expect a portrait.

The Primary Association for Mathematics publications team looks forward to 2008 and to hearing from our members. We would also welcome anyone who would like to get involved in a small way. There are many small ways that you can support us so please volunteer.

ALLAN WHITE  
Manager of Primary Publications

## The stories we tell

One member reported that she tells students: '*The letter x is a cross. This reminds you that the x-axis is across*'.

Another member tells of the different ways students use to remember which trig ratios are positive in the four quadrants. They include:

*All Stations To Cronulla*  
*Always Sign The Cheque*  
*All Students Take Care.*

Do you have a memory aid, short story, joke, song, poem, cartoon, or interesting application that helps engage your students or helps them remember concepts? If you do, then please tell us! We would like to be able to include snippets from as many members as possible in the forthcoming book, *The Stories We Tell*, our publication to celebrate MANSW's 100th birthday. You can email your snippets to [office@mansw.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@mansw.nsw.edu.au) Please include your name, school, or office and a contact phone number. Everyone working to put together the publication is a volunteer. Your contributions will make everyone's work easier and add interest to the book.

## What year is this?

When you are considering your program for Mathematics activities during the year you might find the United Nations and Australian year designations useful as the basis for themed activities

**2008 (MMVIII)** is a leap year in the Anno Domini (or common) era, in accordance with the Gregorian calendar.

The United Nations has designated 2008 as: International Year of Planet Earth. The Year's activities will span the three years 2007-2009. International Year of Sanitation in conjunction with the Water for Life Decade.

International Year of the Potato; noting that the potato is a staple food in the diet of the world's population, and affirming the need to focus world attention on the role that the potato can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty.

The Australian Government has declared 2008 as The Year of the Scout because 2008 is the centenary year of scouting

In Chinese astrology, most of 2008, starting with February 7 will overlap with the *Year of the Rat* (Dates before February 7 are *Year of the Pig*). The next Year of the Rat will be in 2020. 2008 corresponds to the years: 5768-5769 in the Hebrew Calendar, 5109-5110 in the Hindu Calendar, 1428-1429 in the Islamic Calendar. Further details can be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008>

## CensusAtSchool 2008

While you are preparing teaching and learning programs for 2008 think about including the CensusAtSchool activity. This is an excellent way to expose students to the real world of data.

**Several components will be different in 2008.** There will be an international component in 2008. Students from Australia, the United

Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada will be answering eleven common questions that will enable international comparisons. Another change is that the data resulting from the census will be in Excel spreadsheet form to simplify the data analysis process for you.

The questionnaire opens for student responses on 29 January 2008. If you want your students involved in the online questionnaire stage, you will need to register your school. Look out for the CensusAtSchool Information Packs that will be sent to your school Principal over the next few weeks.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics encourages all schools to participate in this innovative project to ensure Australian students make the most of a rich pool of real, raw data. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your school part of the data in 2008.

You can try the present CensusAtSchool resource with your students on [www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool](http://www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool). Registration is not required to do this. From here your students can answer the 2006 questionnaire and take a random sample for analysis. This resource is FREE to all schools.

