



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

May

2008

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Calendar 2008

May

- 16 Newsletter 4 copy to Editor
- 22 PAM Inservice: Fun and Games, Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park
- 23 National Mathematics Day
- 30 Investigating: Mathematics entry forms and fees due

June

- 9 Queen's Birthday
- 12 Teaching with Technology, Macquarie University, North Ryde
- 27 Newsletter 5 copy to Editor

July

- 25 Investigating: Mathematics entries due at MANSW Office

August

- 1 Newsletter 6 copy to Editor

September

- 19 – 21 Annual Conference

From the President

Welcome back to term 2 2008. I hope that you managed to do all those things you'd planned for your break, and that includes having a well-earned rest after term 1. In term 2 we have plenty to look forward to. Firstly there's the second National Mathematics Day, on Friday 23rd May. This is an initiative of the AAMT and you can access details about the day, with suggested activities by visiting <http://www.aamt.edu.au/AAMT-in-action/Annual-activities/National-Maths-Day>. I encourage you to visit this site and use some of the suggested activities to help raise the profile of mathematics in your school community.

This term we also need to be ready for the National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This affects students enrolled in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The old Basic Skills tests (BST and SNAP), have been phased out and we can expect the new tests to provide data on student performance across a number of levels of achievement. There are sample questions available as well as information about calculators at the website: http://naplanstage.curriculum.edu.au/home_page.html. Please encourage your colleagues to visit this site. You may even encourage your students to do so if they have access to the internet.

If you are located within travelling distance of Glenmore Park in Sydney, you may be considering attending the professional

development opportunity titled “Fun and Games: Card Games and dice games”. Perhaps you may be talking with colleagues who are planning on attending this Primary Inservice, or an event later in the year. If so please mention that full details and booking forms are available on our website: www.mansw.nsw.edu.au. Those colleagues who work in secondary schools, in particular stage 6, have just received their copy of the draft syllabus for all new stage 6 courses. They’ll be *excited*, and understandably so!

Back to Primary matters, there is plenty of excitement here too, because the current edition of Square ONE volume 17 Number 4 arrived at school in late term 1. It’s worth seeking this out..... chase it up, somebody must have it. You’ll find full details of classroom activities, and web reviews and also relevant research reports. This is an excellent way to stay informed between conferences.

On the subject of conferences, MANSW’s intrepid Conference Convenor, Scott Lankshear and his conference committee are organising a fabulous event in Wollongong this year. Scott is adamant that the keynote speakers will entertain and inform both Primary and Secondary teachers. Last year’s conference filled and this year we are expecting the same, so please get in early with your bookings. The dates are 19th, 20th and 21st of September; more details on the MANSW website. Complete conference details will be available soon, but this is the time to decide if you’d like to share some of your classroom practices with others. Perhaps you’d like to get a colleague or two and make a joint presentation. If you speak with others who have presented you’ll find that it is perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences that teachers can be involved in outside of your classroom. If you don’t have anyone at your school to talk with about a possible presentation, please telephone our office on 02 98781487 and discuss your ideas with our Professional Officer Bernice Beechey. She’ll be very supportive and informative, and you will then know how to shape your ideas into a successful session.

Finally, I’d like to mention the recently released report entitled “Maths? Why Not?” prepared Primary Newsletter May 2008

for the Department of Education, Employment and Work Relations, dated March 2008. You can locate the full report at www.deewr.gov.au on page iv and v of the Executive Summary. You’ll find some interesting findings with strong implications for Mathematics teaching and learning in Primary and Middle Years. I would love to read your opinions....in favour or against the findings of this report. Please write an email, and make the subject “Maths? Why Not?” The address is office@mansw.nsw.edu.au

DAVID KEANAN BROWN,
President

Primary Program

Our Term 2 inservice, *Fun and Games: Card games and dice games* on Thursday 22 May, will be held very soon after you receive this Newsletter, so please hurry with your registration. The workshop will introduce a wide range of activities for all stages, but of course the discussion of each game will include the specific mathematical content, teaching focus and reasons for inclusion in a classroom program.

Don’t forget the dates for our remaining events this year:

Term 3 – 14 August, *Measurement matters* - Santa Maria Del Monte
Term 4 – 30 October, *Linking maths to life* - William Clarke College

Count Me In Too- Penrith/Blue Mountains

We have a small group of teachers in the **Penrith** area who would like to commence CMIT training in Term 3. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Diane McPhail diane.mcphail@optusnet.com.au so that we can negotiate dates and venues.

The duration and cost of the *Count Me In Too* course have been revised. The course now consists of one full day of initial training and two follow-up workshops each of two hours. The cost is \$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

Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Ann McPherson of New Lambton. Congratulations Ann, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

Student Services

Have your students started talking about their ideas for their entries in Investigating: Mathematics? The full brochure (blue) with details was in the last newsletter and is on the MANSW website www.mansw.nsw.edu.au.

Mathematics and Luna Park is a fun excursion where students 'Learn as they Ride'. Teachers' notes and student worksheet masters are supplied with syllabus relevant work to suit all levels from Stage 2 to Stage 6. When we send you the whole pack of notes you can choose exactly which activities are most suited for the level of your particular group. You can organize for your class or a whole year group to extend their Mathematics experience to a real life fun situation. A brochure with full details and registration form is included with this newsletter.

Look on the MANSW website www.mansw.nsw.edu.au to see if the presentation notes from last year's conference are available for the sessions you are interested in.

A Free Resource for all Schools CensusAtSchool

DATA COLLECTION 2008 IS NOW OPEN

The second data collection is now open for **your students to submit a Questionnaire**. In 2006 over 112,000 students did so. This has provided a wonderful resource of a large database of relevant, up to date data about Australian students, **FREE online**.

A wealth of wonderful real life data to analyse in your classes. Students engage with data about themselves and their peers so having as much data as possible available from your area is to their advantage. So:

1. **Have all the classes in your school complete a survey** not just your class!
2. **Encourage your students to submit the questionnaire**
3. **Encourage other local schools to also complete Questionnaires.**
4. Don't forget to **include those students who will use the data next year!**

SCHOOLS THAT REGISTERED IN 2006 can use the same School Participation Number (SPN). Please call **1800 623 273** if you have forgotten your SPN and to update your contact details.

NEW SCHOOLS CAN REGISTER by completing and returning the Registration Form found at www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool.

A NEW QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 2008

1. The use of sliders has been introduced to provide more continuous data
2. New questions have been added for international comparisons
3. Many questions have been retained so comparisons can be made to 2006
-beginnings of longitudinal studies.

This is a free resource from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

More details at www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool.

Initial Teacher Education Committee

One of the foremost responsibilities of the Institute of Teachers is to assure both the profession and the community of the quality of teacher training.

The Institute does this through the review and assessment of initial teacher education programs offered by providers of teacher education. The approval process ensures that the programs meet the requirements of the Professional Teaching Standards at the Graduate Teacher level. A key component of the approval process is the **Initial Teacher Education Committee (ITEC) Panels**.

Teaching for Uncertain Futures available free from Teaching Australia

Teaching for Uncertain Futures from Teaching Australia is the work of teachers and principals from around Australia who were involved in a national scenario building project, the Open Book Scenarios, focusing on the central question of the project "What will the Australian teaching profession have to do to be successful in 2030?"

The Open Book scenario builders created four quite different alternate worlds for 2030. They found that important aspects of teaching and the teacher's role – optimism and commitment, motivating students, skilled use of technologies, close community partnerships and collegiality, among others - remain constant across quite different imagined futures.

Teaching for Uncertain futures provides a catalyst for schools to plan and reflect on how they can best prepare students for the future. It is a great starting point to heighten awareness of future influences and to explore ways in which the teaching profession can maximise the opportunities of the future, for students and for the nation.

Teaching for Uncertain Futures is available on request from Teaching Australia, email info@teachingaustralia.edu.au

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

Remember to put the conference into your school calendar and professional development budget.

