



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

**October
2008**

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Calendar 2008

October

- 16 Annual General Meeting, MANSW Office
- 30 Primary Inservice *Linking maths to life* at William Clarke College, Kellyville.

From the President

Welcome to Term 4, 2008. As you might imagine, I am writing this report in late term 3, and we are just days away from our Annual MANSW Conference held this year at the Novotel at Northbeach, Wollongong. As usual MANSW will produce the usual conference addition of our journal, Reflections, and for the benefit of all members I do ask presenters to please consider offering something from their presentation. This is an appropriate opportunity to recognise the wonderful efforts of our Conference Edition editor, Judy Anderson. Judy has been producing the Conference Edition of Reflections for many years. Judy was editing this journal long before she took up her current position of AAMT President. We are truly indebted to Judy; on behalf of all MANSW members who look forward to this special edition of Reflections, I say "thank you Judy, your countless hours and fabulous editorial expertise have been highly valued and will be missed."

During this term 4, there is a very important website that we all need to be visiting: <http://www.ncb.org.au>. On this site, we find the very latest information about the National Curriculum. Here is an extract that you will find under Draft Principles :- 'the curriculum should make clear to teachers what has to be taught, and to students what they should learn and what achievement standards are expected of them in each stage of schooling'. This gives us some idea of the impact that a National curriculum will have on our classrooms. The National Curriculum Board, [NCB] has hosted forums around the country seeking input from representatives of professional bodies, for example late in Term 3, on September 15th, I participated on behalf of MANSW at the Sydney forum and there will be another forum in October. Also on the NCB website under "2008 Curriculum writing" you will see that the NCB is currently preparing a position paper which will be released in October, for a three month feedback period. If we wait until the 2009 school year before we seriously consider the position paper it will be too late. MANSW will be responding on behalf of members, so please make your opinions count and send an email to us at office@mansw.nsw.edu.au or contact our office by telephone. This affects all stages of Mathematics school education and MANSW needs to hear from people who specialise in Primary Mathematics, Secondary Mathematics, or both. While we are considering the activities of NCB, it is reassuring to know that all MANSW members have a second body looking after our interests, and that's the AAMT. MANSW is working closely with

AAMT to ensure that the NSW point of view is taken into account when AAMT responds to the NCB position paper.

Early in term 3 this year, I mentioned that MANSW will soon be turning 100 years old. Our special birthday is in 2010, so we're already making plans to celebrate with a publication of 'the stories we tell'. So, whether it's a story that you've heard before and use in your class, or an original story that you've made up, we want to hear from you. This is a K-12, urban and rural project, so please get involved and send in your contribution.

I would like to mention *Investigating: Mathematics*, organised superbly each year by Sue Thomson. Late in Term 3 this year, it was my pleasure to present awards and shake hands with over 40 young mathematicians. We had to keep works of the first place getters because these will be wrapped up and sent off to the National competition for judging. The students who engage in this competition are highly motivated by Mathematics. I urge all MANSW members, working in Primary or Secondary schools to invite your students to enter in 2009.

The 2008 MANSW AGM will take place at Kent Road office on Thursday 16th October at 7pm. Current members are invited to attend. Our guest speaker this year is Peter Gould. Members will know Peter from his insightful articles in the journal 'Curriculum Support', Published by Curriculum K-12 Directorate of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

If you'd like to be a part of the MANSW executive, or sit in on one of our committees, such as PAM, or an editorial committee, then 2009 is an exciting time to join. 2009 promises to be anything but an ordinary year. For more information about our 2008 AGM, or positions on the executive and various committees, please contact our MANSW Office staff.

DAVID KEANAN BROWN,
President

Annual General Meeting – Reminder

**MANSW Annual General
Meeting will be held at the
MANSW Office
7:00 pm Thursday 16 October
2008**

Primary Program

Our Term 4 metropolitan inservice, *Linking Maths to Life* will be held on Thursday 30 October, Week 3, at William Clarke College in Kellyville (North-Western Sydney). If you would like to attend but have not registered – please hurry! This event will be a great way to finish our inservice program for 2008, with the invitation to think carefully about the mathematics programs we implement in our classrooms. For many of our students, "mathematics" is the mastery of procedures and the ability to reproduce the correct format or operation during the Friday weekly test. This workshop will explore mathematics as numeracy and discuss how to engage students with realistic and practical examples from everyday experiences.

We have organised a one-day conference program to be presented at the CSU Dubbo Campus, on 1 November. The program is based on the popular inservice workshops held in Sydney locations over the last 18 months. The surrounding schools received flyers for this event late last term. This initiative is funded by the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program and registration including refreshments is free. Registrations close on 17 October, so again please hurry if you intend to join us for the day.

DIANE McPHAIL
Primary Program Manager

Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Paul Steenson of Terrigal. Congratulations Paul, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

Student Services

Luna Park

Change of Days Available for Mathematics at Luna Park

Are you considering a Mathematics excursion to Luna Park? Please take into account that Luna Park will now only be open on Mondays and Fridays during school term until the end of the year so look at your School Calendar to find a suitable date. We have added extra Mondays and Fridays to the available dates so look at the included flyer to choose a date to suit your students.

There are only a few vacancies for students at Luna Park remaining for 2008. Contact the MANSW office should you want to be included.

Investigating: Mathematics

Corrections to Results

Year 4 Small Group First

St Joseph's Primary School

Queenie the Melbourne Zoo elephant

Gurkirat Sidhu, Anne Lovegrove, Shaun McManus, Blake Lloyd, Sophia Manahan, Jack Criss

Year 6 Small Group Merit

Seven Hills North Public school

3, 6, 9 ... "Find the way they rhyme"

Jessica Stratton, Kara Whitehouse, Jasmine Granados, Jarad Wyton, Sandeep Das, Andrew Cheong

The stories we tell

All contributions to our centenary celebration publication need to be received by the office before the end of this year. Keep the contributions coming!

Dream Home Area and Perimeter Task

Task: Design a floor plan for your dream home and work out the following:

- total area of house
- areas of each room
- perimeter of your house

You may use other shapes eg. a triangle or circle somewhere in your design (this could be a garden feature or a swimming pool etc)

Make sure you label your diagram with the appropriate measurements.

Materials: A4 paper, grid paper, pencil, ruler

Outcomes:

MS3.1: Selects and uses the appropriate unit and device to measure lengths, distances and perimeters

MS3.2: Selects and uses the appropriate unit to calculate area, including the area of squares, rectangles and triangles.

WMS3.2: Selects and applies appropriate problem-solving strategies, including technological applications, in undertaking investigations.

C. Attard

Chance & Data

“Two Dice” Investigation

What total is most likely to occur from the rolling of two dice?

With your group investigate this question. Record all of your discussions and explorations so they can be shared with the class.

Begin by:

- Making some predictions
- Try out some different methods (you will need to use about 100 throws to test the statement)
- Decide how to record your findings so that others will be able to understand
- Record your findings
- Make some conclusions
- Write a report on your investigation so that you can present this to the class and include the following questions:
 - a) What is the smallest total possible?
 - b) Are you just as likely to get a total of 2 as a total of 5? Why?
 - c) If you were asked these questions again, would you use a different method of exploration?

EXTENSION:

- How could you improve this experiment?
- Design a ‘fair’ game that involves the use of 2 dice.
- Predict the most likely total for 3 or 4 dice.



C. Attard.