Plans For This Summer: Making Lemonade!

By Debbie Stetson

You lose some, and you lose some. BUT, sometimes you win some too.

When you state gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Scott and I were talking today—dreaming a bit out loud. As you might imagine we have been walking around under a cloud lately, with the latest news from the state being no money, no money and no hope for any. Of course there is no money for professional developers like us, there isn’t money for much more immediate needs either. All this has inspired us to think mighty creatively.

Where is the CSUSMP now? We have had 4 years of summer institutes, extending and deepening our school-year contact and support of our summer institute fellows each year. Scott and I and Rick West have visited more groups of teachers at more schools than ever before. Even this early in January, I have two visits scheduled already. There is now quite a network of you all out there! What could be the next step in order to facilitate lasting support? (So here is where the dreaming part came in.) On a few occasions over the last year, we have paid lip service to running some sort of institute for former Invitational Institute participants-mostly because it would be a powerfully fun and amazing time, putting all those brains in the same room doing math, talking about questioning, analyzing teaching. But we hadn’t ever found the time nor the money to do it. Guess what? We figured out those details (in spite of no money, no money). Moreover, we figured out a...continued on page 3.

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SAME Conference

MARCH 1, 2003
Special Follow-Up Saturday

The Sacramento Area Mathematics Educators and CSUSMP are teaming up in March for a conference at CSUS. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, the conference brochure and registration form are inserted.

The conference will be a great time to attend workshops by area math educators, and participate in a poster session on making your curriculum work.

The SAME conference is in lieu of a March Saturday meeting, and will count as a follow-up Saturday for stipend earning. For summer 2002 institute participants, CSUSMP will cover the cost of registration (just tick the appropriate box on your registration form).

You are encouraged to invite colleagues from your school or district. Extra forms can be photocopied or downloaded from our website.

If you have questions regarding this conference, please contact Jacquie Coe at (916) 278-4497 or jcoe@csus.edu.

We hope to see you there!

Math in Action AB466 Workshops

Standards! New textbooks! Math Content! Framework Guidelines!

If these rise to the top of your list of worries as a school administrator or teacher leader, the CSU Math Project may have the answer. The Math Project and the Sacramento County Office of Education have developed a text based professional development seminar that will fit the needs of any staff grappling with the questions that come with the new adoption and standards based assessments.

The full session, 120 hours, is comprised of 80 hours of staff development and 40 hours of site collaboration and peer coaching. Districts or sites may choose the full session or a 40 hour staff development seminar. Both options include a three-fold approach to mathematics and student understanding.

1. A complete study of grade level standards, including key standards, along with the analysis of the text’s approach to teaching and assessing those standards.
2. An understanding of the California State Mathematics Framework with integration of the teaching and assessment guidelines into the textbook’s structure.
3. Math content to support the teachers’ understanding of the math content standards.

Session schedules are tailored to the needs of the district or site but may include options such as:
- Twice weekly sessions, 2 hours each, for 10 weeks
- 40 hour session during spring break and/or June
- A combination of the above options

For more information on how to host a Math in Action workshop at your school or district, please contact Fran Gibson, our text-based programs coordinator. Her phone number is 916-801-6251, and email is fgibson@ucdavis.edu.

Our New Website!

www.csus.edu/org/csusmp

We have updated our website in an attempt to communicate to our community better, and to make it easier for Math Project participants to get information and sign-up for events.

You might want to bookmark the Events Calendar page for signing up online, or use the main page as your homepage – what better way to be encouraged or show your support for Math Project. When you have a chance, please check it out!
Making Lemonade! - (continued from page 1.....)

more meaningful, far reaching purpose for it. This institute can be the catalyst to answer the question, “What is our next step?” So several thoughts came together which helped to set our new course of action.

1) Add a renewed focus on intervention strategies to help with the issue of those sliding students, the ones you had hopes would be over the extra hurdles by now, so that they would be doing better for the second part of the school year, but that haven't made it over the first hurdle, let alone the others.

2) We would like our work next school year to be with staffs at schools, supporting their implementation of peer coaching. SO, that would mean we need some teachers at schools who can be the instigators, who can get a team of folks involved with their administrators' support, who can help coordinate events. WELL, that sounds like we should have some time in the summer to get these instigators together, so brainstorming and planning can happen—and these instigators should be teachers who already have a background in what we do. AND, so we decided to hold an institute for those teachers who have already attended our Invitational Institutes (1999-2002) and who would like to be these instigators for their staffs. Maybe CATALYSTS is a better word, and the name for this one week institute will be—“Invitational Institute Part II: Catalysts for Teachers Supporting Teachers and Reaching Understanding for All Students’. Like the original Invitational Institute, we will begin each morning of the week with Problem Solving, observation and a public debriefing analysis of the lesson. Rick and Scott have already figured out some new problems! It will be held June 23 - 27. The registration fee will be $100 and we are currently determining whether or not we can offer 2 units of extension credit. All former participants in the Invitational Institute may apply, and we will accommodate as many as possible, hoping not to have to deny anyone.

As you can imagine, Scott and I are thrilled to have embarked upon a new phase in the ever-evolving CSUSMP. For our work this semester, this summer and next school year, we have a renewed focus on intervention strategies. So thank you Mr. Davis for handing us lemons, because we have figured out how to make lemonade!!

Time For A Visit?

This seems very odd, but for the first time since 1985, I won’t be teaching my own classes next semester. We are making more time in my schedule to get out to schools on a regularly scheduled basis—so I will be teaching and observing in many classes. My main focus will be to get into classrooms of Algebra and PreAlgebra classes, as I am forming a cadre of teachers from our network of folks who have attended the Invitational or Intervention Institutes in the past, who would like to work together with me this semester to identify, create and/or develop some model lessons and strategies that work with these students. Also, I will continue to do follow-up visits to support those teachers who took part in our Invitational Institutes. So, not teaching my own classes will allow me greater flexibility to be involved in teaching and observing in more of your classrooms. If you would like a visit, or have some staff development time, give me a call.

Farewell to a Friend of the Math Project

Susan Lynn Harling passed away peacefully at age 56 of breast cancer on November 16, 2002 at the end of her final travel adventure in Lisbon, Portugal with her loving husband, Paul at her side. Sue had over thirty years experience in elementary education serving in numerous schools in the San Juan District as a mentor teacher, facilitating parent involvement, helping set up technology, co-teaching multigrade level classrooms, working with Chapter 1 children, working as a curriculum specialist, and assisting parents to learn quality methods to help their children. She was a vice-principal and principal in the Lodi School District and completed her career in the Elk Grove School District where she was a math curriculum specialist and a Math Matters Coach. Sue was past President of Sac.to. Area Mathematics Educators (SAME) and past Vice-President of Capital Computer Using Educators. She served twice on the State Mathbooks Adoption Committee and was Treasurer of the Calif. Mathematics Council. She had a special love for children who struggled to learn. Sue enjoyed her free time kayaking and walking in the American River Parkway with her husband. In addition to her husband, Sue is survived by their son, Robert, and granddaughter, Montanna Rayne Harling of Valley Center. A memorial service was held at St. Philomenes Catholic Church on Dec. 14, 2002.

*For the SAME Conference please fill out the enclosed reg. form*

Phone Huong at (916) 278-4785

http://csus.edu/org/csusmp

Meetings Online at:

RSVP

*Remember to RSVP for Saturday Meetings Online at: http://csus.edu/org/csusmp OR Phone Huong at (916) 278-4785*