

CSUS MATH PROJECT NEWS

March, 2000

"The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas."

--Linus Pauling

NO FOOLING! NEXT CSUSMP SATURDAY MEETING ON APRIL 1

All are welcome to attend our final Saturday meeting of this academic year. If you have a colleague who has been interested in finding out what CSUSMP is all about, please encourage her/him to attend. We have prepared some activities in keeping with this special day—we will be looking at some interesting conundrums, lines of fallacious reasoning and magic tricks with a mathematical basis! At the last Saturday meeting in February, we spent time discussing some of the most difficult concepts to teach for understanding using the **HAVE WANT** model. Groups of teachers were able to identify key mathematical hurdles between the idea that students HAVE and the idea that we WANT them to learn, for four difficult concepts at various grade levels. Those four difficult concepts included:

- 1) the processes of rounding-off 3.427 to 3.43 by connecting to an understanding of how to measure distance on a number line;
- 2) determining volume as the product of the area of the base and the height by connecting to an understanding of area being measured in square units and volumes being measured in cubic units;
- 3) the process of mentally computing $28 + 13$ by connecting to an understanding of place value and addition and subtraction facts; and
- 4) determining the measure of a central angle in a circle given the measure of an inscribed angle by connecting to an understanding of the sum of the angles inside a triangle is 180 degrees and isosceles triangles.

At the April 1st meeting, we will be using the HAVE WANT model to trace the mathematics behind the magic tricks done in the problem solving. Please join us for a morning of surprising mathematics on April

Fools Day, 9:00-12:00 in Eureka Hall, Room 112. Breakfast goodies and a light lunch will be provided.

JOHN VAN DE WALLE SPEAKING APRIL 8

We have been working with the Sacramento Area Mathematics Educators, S.A.M.E., to host a Spring Mini-Conference here at CSUS. The conference is titled "Developing Strategies to Address Standards Instruction", and the keynote speaker is John Van de Walle, author of Elementary and Middle School Mathematics, Teaching Developmentally. In addition, local area mathematics educators, including Nancy Aaberg, Rick Croom, Pat Duckhorn, Fran Gibson, Daniel Orey, and Jeanne Shimizu will offer breakout sessions. The conference will be held in the University Union BallRoom from 8:00 – 12:00. Coffee, tea, and small breakfast items will be provided in the morning, and a light lunch will be provided. If you would like to register, please mail the \$15.00 registration fee to Sarah Davis at the CSUSMP office address listed below. Make checks payable to S.A.M.E.

CSUSMP STAFF HAS BEEN BUSY

In February, five teachers affiliated with CSUSMP and NCMP agreed to attend some training for teachers to become providers of AB 1331 training. CSUSMP is one site of fifteen in the California Mathematics Project (CMP). CMP hosted the first half of the training provided by C.O.R.E. Chris Anderson, Allison Armstrong, Brenda Hensley, Kerri Koerner, and Carol Stryker were able to complete the first portion of the training held at U.C.L.A. They will be eligible to complete the second portion of their training in June.

SUMMER INSTITUTES, SUMMER INSTITUTES, AND MORE SUMMER INSTITUTES

As you have already heard, we are hosting the 3-week Summer Invitational Institutes for teachers of grades K-12, as we did last summer, from June 26 – July 14. We are currently accepting applications and will begin the interview process very soon. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, as hasn't yet, please call Sarah Davis at (916) 278-5951 to determine if there is still time to apply. You may also already know we will be hosting a 1-week Elementary Institute for the week of July 17 – July 21. What you don't know is that the governor is pushing some legislation, which will enable us to offer 2 additional institutes. Because this is pending legislation and will not be officially passed until the budget is signed, our plans may change. Listed below is our current best information regarding these institutes.

CSUSMP ALGEBRA INSTITUTES

for those teaching algebra or the two years preceding algebra. This institute will be similar to the MPI program offered at CSUS last summer. This will be a four-week program from June 19 – July 14, 2000 with follow-up throughout the school year. 5 units of upper division math credit will be available which will help those seeking a supplemental credential in mathematics. Our latest information from the people administering these programs stated the stipends would be \$1000 for the summer program and \$500 for the follow-up.

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MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST

PROGRAM for teachers of 4th through 6th grades who agree to teach more than one class of students mathematics during the next school year. This will be a four-week program from June 26 – July 21, 2000 with follow-up throughout the school year. The participants of this institute will work together with the participants of our 3-week invitational institutes on problem solving in the morning, and then adjourn to a different room to focus on issues and curriculum specific to grades 4-6 for the remainder of the day. Stipends will be provided. Our latest information from the people administering these programs stated the stipends would be \$1000 for the summer program and \$500 for the follow-up.

We are currently determining the logistics and the staffing for these institutes. Applications, including final details, will be mailed soon. If you are not on our mailing list and would like an application mailed to you, please contact Sarah Davis at (916) 278-5951 or email, sdavis@csus.edu.

NCMP is also offering an institute on Algebra and the Preparation for Algebra for middle school teachers similar to our Algebra Institute. Judy Kysh and Al Mendle from NCMP at U.C. Davis are currently planning this program for July 17 - August 4, 2000 and June 25 - 29, 2001 with eight Saturday seminars during the academic year. There will be 5-6 semester units of mathematics credit available for the summer and 4 units of education credit during the year. Tom Sallee will be the lead faculty member, and several others will be joining him. They are in the process of selecting 2-3 teachers to work with him. They plan to hold the Institute at the Solano County office from 8:30 - 3:30. For information and application forms, contact Thu Pham at (530) 752-8467 or email tjpham@ucdavis.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, April 1, CSUSMP Meeting 900-1200 at CSUS, EUR-112
- Tuesday, April 4, PCC Meeting 4:30-6:00 at CSUS, MND-4008
- Saturday, April 8, SAME Mini-Conference 8:00-12:00 at CSUS, University Union Ballroom
- Tuesday, May 16, PCC Meeting 4:30-6:00 at CSUS, MND-4008

MAILING LIST REQUESTS

Would you like to be on our mailing list? If you would like this newsletter mailed to your home, contact us at (916) 278-5951.

If you would like an electronic version only and no hard copy, please let us know that also.

CSUSMP CONTACT INFORMATION

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