



MONTANA MATHEMATICS

A Publication of the Montana Council
of Teachers
of Mathematics

March, 2005

Volume 39

Issue 3

President's Message 3-05

It is March already. I can't believe how fast the time goes when you are having fun. Several years ago, I visited an older gentleman that lived across the street from me. He said, "You know, the days drag, but the years fly". I think there are times in all of our lives that we can identify with this thought. There are days that I am thinking that it must be 3:00 as look up at a clock that reads 10:30. But, as I look back over the year, wow, it has really scampered past us.

In Lewistown we just filled out our mid-quarter grades, which means we are 62.5% (or somewhat close if I can do the math) through the year. I am now reflecting back in the year and looking at my goals. Have I reached them? Do I have a chance to reach the ones that have not been attained? What should I change? Is my patience waning or gaining – and is it headed in the right direction? This is a great time of the year to evaluate our teaching. We all know we can make a tremendous effect in a student's life. A kind word, versus a putdown. Are we doing the right thing? As administrators are busy doing formal evaluations, it is an appropriate time for us to do some informal evaluations of our year.

I would like to use some space in this newsletter to evaluate MCTM's performance thus far this year.

1. **STARS:** So far this year there were two workshops held before school started, five during the school year and three more are scheduled during the summer. This program, developed by MT teachers for MT teachers, is a great opportunity to learn more about assessment.
2. **COMET:** The design teams in each of the grade bands have firmed up the content for this year's summer program. The focus of this summer's two-week sessions will be number sense, probability, algebraic thinking, and mathematical thinking. Every activity will incorporate at least one of these four main ideas.
3. **ASTEROIDS** – just kidding. But, if we give Jean Howard enough time I am sure that she will be able to come up with something for that acronym.
4. **The Leadership Conference:** This year's conference outgrew the Comfort Inn in Bozeman and had to be moved to the Holiday Inn to accommodate all of the registrants. The topic, delivered by Freda Parks, focused on poverty. Between all of the laughs and interesting stories, there was a huge message of how we should view students who come from a severely low economic status. It was interesting to learn the "rules" for each of the different classes of economic status.

How people in each class think and why they behave the way they do was very aptly stated. Mark your calendar for next January and to attend the Leadership Conference. We are very fortunate to have the same speaker. Mrs. Parks was extremely easy to listen to and delivered a powerful message.

5. **Montana Learning Center:** MCTM continues to find ways to use the facility at Canyon Ferry. If you haven't been there, find an activity, a workshop or an excuse and drive by if you are in the area. There are lots of activities slated for this great facility. MCTM donated some of our treasury to get the Montana Learning Center off the ground.
6. **Visions and Reality** (for the board) Two years ago, President Jean Howard hosted a Visions and Reality conference for some of the teachers of Montana. During this meeting we looked at what we had happening right now in Montana, and then we listed some of our dreams that we hoped would happen. This year, I am going to have a "Visions and Reality" meeting at Canyon Ferry in June for the MCTM Board of Directors. Here is where you, as members of MCTM, can play a vital part in shaping the direction that MCTM will take over the next several years. We want to know what you would like to see. How should we invest our dollars and time in the students and teachers of Montana? Our well of dollars is drying up with the SIMMS grant coming to an end. We will no longer have the money coming in from the dissemination grant that Gary Bauer has been administering. How should we spend our declining dollars and be fiscally sound? Talk with your regional representatives; let them know the direction MCTM should take.

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7. Professional Development Academy: We are still holding

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this open for another three weeks. There have only been 17 teachers signed up from around the state. We have to have at least 22 participants to make this “a go”. We have two fantastic teachers for this fun-filled and informative four days in July. This is great opportunity to learn some quality mathematics and pick up some cheap credits besides. I know time is precious and there is a cost involved, but what a great way to spend some time during the summer. Please contact Linda Horst (email : horstl@billings.k12.mt.us <<mailto:horstl@billings.k12.mt.us>>) for an app.

All in all, it is a great time to be teaching math in Montana. To all of you who teach probability, as Roy Rogers would say, “Happy trials to you.”

Jim Hamling

Deadline for May Newsletter is

May 10, 2004

e-mail articles to

kathje_dalton@gfps.k12.mt.us

Membership Matters!

Spring in Montana means basketball playoffs for many. This may be a time for teams to challenge each other on the floor, but I think of it more as a chance to meet fellow teachers in the stands!

I found fellow math teachers in Chinook, Valier, Conrad, Great Falls, and Belgrade...but that lists only a few of the many wonderful professionals I am proud to call my Mathematical Family. During this past year, I found my friends in restaurants in Polson, at the State Fair in Great Falls, and shopping in Missoula. Each meeting reminded me just how lucky we are to be a part of a group which is more than a curriculum group. Together, we make a wonderfully large family of caring professionals. Isn't it great to be a part of something so good?!

Isn't it sad that there are others that don't understand the networking they are missing? Please take a moment to share the membership information with others in your district. They may not know what they are missing...and as with most families, the more members, the merrier our reunions!

Enjoy the rest of the school year!
Deb Wickum

Earn Your Masters Degree in Mathematics Education

The MSU-Bozeman Master of Science Degree in Mathematics under the Mathematics Education Option (MSMME) is designed for practicing mathematics teachers or science teachers wishing to be endorsed in mathematics. In each of the past five years about forty teachers have been enrolled in the program, averaging ten graduates per year.

The MSMME degree, usually completed in two years, consists of 30 semester hours of courses and individual projects that you select depending on your interests and needs. Most coursework is taken online from your own home or from your school during the academic year. Face-to-face classes are taught in a three-week, Monday-Thursday, summer institute format. A capstone project, completed in the second year of the program, lets you try new ideas for improving mathematics learning in your classroom.

Details about the program can be found at www.math.montana.edu/mathed/distance.

If you would like to receive an application packet or more information about the program please contact Dr. Maurice Burke, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-2400, Phone (406)994-3601. E-mail is the quickest: burke@math.montana.edu.

WE CARE!

Periodically we will send our members fast updates on approaching deadlines and opportunities via email. If you have changed your email address since you registered as an MCTM member please send an update to Deb Wickum: debwickum@hotmail.com

IT'S TIME TO VOTE

The bylaws of the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics Article III, Section 1 states:
“The membership of the Council shall elect from its members eight (8) directors. The term of office for each director shall be three (3) years. These directors shall be elected in such a way that each of the five regions shall always be represented by at least one representative. The directors shall also be elected in such a way that each level, elementary (K-4), upper elementary/middle school (5-8), secondary (9-12), and higher education (13-up) shall be represented by no less than one director at all times. No member of the MCTM may serve more than one elected term unless a time of five years has elapsed between terms.”

It's time to vote for three new MCTM Board of Directors and a President. The ballot is included in this newsletter. The board members whose terms are up in June will be Anne, Peggy, and Lisa.

Term Ends in June:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Grade Band</u>
Anne Blotkamp	3	K-4
Peggy Lynn	3	7-12
Lisa Scott	4	9-12

Remaining Directors:

Carl Anderberg	3	9-12
Charles Deisher	5	9-12
Linda Horst	4	5-8
Libby Krussel	1	13+
Satinee Lightbourne	2	9-12

The elementary level needs representation, and possibly Region 2, and three directors are necessary to have a total of eight.

When you vote, you will be asked to vote for up to three candidates. You may vote for any three candidates. The votes will be tallied and then there will be three new directors. The candidate from the elementary grade band that receives the most votes will be a new director and the candidate from region 2, if needed, that receives the most votes will be a new director. Then the candidate/s from all the remaining candidates that receives the highest number of votes will be the second/third director. We call this elected candidate a “director at large”. Once a director is on the board they “represent” their region and their grade band so a region or grade band could have several representatives but each region and grade band will have at least one representative.

You will also be asked to vote for one for the position of president. The candidate with the most votes will serve as the president-elect for one year and as president for two years.

Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics State Board of Directors

Vote for three candidates for the MCTM Board of Directors

<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennie Luebeck
<input type="checkbox"/> Angel Greenley	<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Ransford
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathy Lane	

Vote for one candidate for MCTM President

Satinee Lightbourne
 Lisa Scott

**MCTM Board of Directors
Candidate Information Form
2005 Election**

Lisa Scott

My present teaching assignment is the Middle School Mathematics Coach for a Math/Science Partnership Grant that was awarded to Billings Public Schools and MSU-Billings by the Office of Public Instruction and funded by the Department of Education. The measurable objective of this grant is to increase the number of 6th - 8th graders who are proficient in math. My duties include helping design the mathematics professional development for the participants (28, 6th-8th grade teachers) in the grant. This professional development concentrates on increasing content knowledge and research-based instructional strategies. The participants and I work together in their classrooms on lesson planning, co-teaching, and lesson reflection. I am also responsible for collecting data to help determine the success of the grant.

My education background includes a Masters of Science in Mathematics, Teaching Option from Montana State University-Bozeman and a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics, Teaching Option also from Montana State University-Bozeman.

My teaching experience includes teaching 9th-12th grade mathematics at Billings Senior High School, teaching 6th-12th grade mathematics for Joliet Public Schools, and teaching 9th-10th grade at Headwaters Academy in Bozeman, MT. I taught at Senior High School from August of 1997 to June of 2004. The classes I taught included; SIMMS Integrated Mathematics Level I, II & IV, Algebra I, II & III, Geometry, Math Refresher and Title Mathematics. I taught for Joliet Public Schools from July, 1993 to May, 1997. I taught Algebra I & II, Geometry, Junior High Algebra, Business Math, and 6th & 8th grade Math Thematics. I taught at Headwaters Academy from January, 1992 to June, 1993. I taught Algebra 1, Geometry and Keyboarding.

I have been active in the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) since I began teaching in 1992. I have presented every year at the MEA-MFT Convention since 1993. I am currently a MCTM Director. This began in April 2000 and is scheduled to end in April 2005. I was appointed to fill a director position for someone who was unable to complete her term. I was then elected to serve a three year term. I am a co-chair for the MSTA/MCTM Leadership Conference that is held annually in Bozeman, MT. I have done this from January 2001 to the present. I was the MCTM General Chair for MEA-MFT Convention held in Billings, MT in 2000. I am a participant in the K-16 Conference that has been held at the Montana Learning Center during the summers of 2003 and 2004. I help each year with the MCTM Regional Math Contest held in Billings. This includes coaching students, proctoring the tests and entering student scores. I have also been active in developing and implementing professional development for the SIMMS Integrated Mathematics textbook series owned by MCTM. I have been involved with this since the first pilot began in 1992.

I received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Mathematics in 2002. This was awarded by the National Science Foundation. I belong to the following professional organizations; Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), Council of Presidential Awardees in Mathematics (CPAM), Montana Association of Presidential Awardees (MAPA), Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT), and Billings Education Association (BEA).

The positive traits I bring to the MCTM board are my willingness to work with others, my persistence to accomplish goals and a strong desire to improve mathematics education for Montana teachers and students. I plan to continue doing this by staying active in my professional organizations, continuing my own professional development, and continuing to pursue information on research-based methods to improve mathematics instruction and student achievement.

The role MCTM should take in Montana Mathematics is to support strong mathematic leadership for the next legislative session to provide suggestions for funding our schools. We need to seek and encourage funding toward teacher salaries, professional development and technology. We need to build a partnership with the Office of Public Instruction so MCTM becomes an equal voice in mathematics education within our state and nationally. We need to continue to encourage teaching to our state and national standards and not to a test. MCTM needs to continue to offer outstanding professional development for teachers K-16. We also need to encourage mathematics teachers to stay and teach in Montana.

I believe in MCTM, our teachers and students and would like the opportunity to continue working for them. Thank you for considering me to represent you!

**MCTM Board of Directors Candidate Information Form
2005 Election**

Satinee Lightbourne

Present teaching assignment:

Great Falls High School - Geometry, Algebra II/Trig Honors and Algebra III

Education Background:

Conrad High School (1980)

Carroll College - BA in Mathematics Education (1984)

Montana State University - MA in Mathematics Education(1991)

More than 45 credits beyond my masters degree at various institutions

Previous teaching experience:

Power High School, Mathematics instructor 1984 –1988

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Computer Programming,
Advanced Computer Programming.

Great Falls High School: 1988 – present

General Math, Prep for Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra I – Honors, Geometry
Algebra II, Algebra II – Honors, Algebra III, Algebra II – Physics,
Probability and Statistics

University of Great Falls, adjunct Professor: 1993 –1998

Teaching Methods for Secondary Mathematics

Activities in MCTM:

Member of MCTM: 1984- present

Member of NCTM: 1989 - present

Presenter at MCTM conferences: 1984 – present

SIMMS writer 1993

Region 2 Leadership Chairman: 1993 - 1995

MCTM Math Contest Regional Director: 1992 – 1999

MCTM Math Contest State Director: 1999 – present

MCTM Board of Directors 2003 - present

Other Information (activities, awards, organizational memberships, etc.)

1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching

Curriculum Committee - Great Falls Public Schools

Assessment Team Member - Great Falls Public Schools

Title I Math Committee - Great Falls High

What positive traits will you bring to the MCTM Board?

I am very active in the mathematics community and am not afraid of hard work. I have the inside track and information about the Math Contest which is a major undertaking of MCTM. After being active in MCTM for 21 years, I feel the need to continue to serve the organization that has offered me so much support and so many opportunities .

5. What role, whether a change or status quo, should MCTM take in Montana mathematics?

I feel that MCTM has been very supportive of and helpful to the math teachers and students in Montana. I think that this should continue to be the major focus of the organization. The board should continue to find ways to support and encourage growth in Montana math teachers and students. Also, I hope the board would explore

**MCTM Board of Directors Candidate Information Form
2005 Election**

Jennie Luebeck

Present Teaching Assignment: Assistant Professor, Mathematics Education
Mathematical Sciences, MSU-Bozeman

Education Background: 1982, B.S. mathematics, Sioux Falls College, SD
1986, M.S. mathematics education, MSU-Bozeman
1998, Ed.D. curriculum & instruction (math), MSU-Bozeman

Teaching Experience: 1986-88, Gillette & Sheridan, WY (part-time teaching)
1986-93, Sheridan Community College, WY
1993-98, MSU-Bozeman (teaching and grant work)
1998-2001, University of Northern Colorado (faculty)
2001-present, MSU-Bozeman (faculty)

Activities with MCTM:

- Member since ??? (off and on over 15 years)
- Co-director, designer, and instructor: MCTM Professional Development Academy on Assessment, Summer 2003, held at MSU-Bozeman
- Co-director and project evaluator: MCTM COMET Project, January 2005-September 2006, housed at Montana Learning Center

Other information:

I teach methods and content courses for future mathematics teachers at MSU-Bozeman, and also teach regularly in our online master's degree program in math education. As the mathematics consultant for the project "Electronic Mentoring for Student Success," I am working with over 40 beginning and veteran math teachers in Montana. I'm on the elementary design team and a director/evaluator of the COMET Project, which will involve another 75 teachers in improving content knowledge.

Other memberships:

- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics,
- National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics
- School Science and Mathematics Association
- Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators

What positive traits will you bring to the board?

Because of my past and current involvement with MCTM-sponsored projects, I am already somewhat familiar with Board activities and financial responsibilities.

Through the COMET grant, I am active in planning the future of the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake. My work at MSU keeps me in tune with state and national trends and requirements for mathematics education and teacher preparation. I'm well-connected with Montana's math teachers through MCTM and other programs. Finally, I have great organizational skills and enjoy problem solving!

What role should MCTM take in Montana Mathematics?

Montana's mathematics education community is well-known nationally for its stability and creativity. Playing on our strengths, we need to become more outspoken in government and education as positive change agents for math teaching and math teachers. I believe that whenever possible, MCTM should play a role in programs that affect mathematics teachers in the state. Besides COMET, there are several other state-level projects focused on mathematics teaching, as well as an NSF-funded mentoring program that involves beginning and expert math teachers from rural and city schools across the state. MCTM should endorse these programs and find ways to support the teachers involved. Also, the next few years are going to determine the fate of the Montana

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Learning Center. MCTM and MSTA have a responsibility to promote, support, and maintain programs that will help MLC thrive.

MCTM Board of Directors Candidate Information Form 2005 Election

Kathy Lane

Present Teaching Assignment: I am a Title 1 teacher in Sheridan, Montana. I am presently teaching math and language arts to students in grades K – 8. I also teach a remedial English class to 9th graders. I have remedial replacement classes in 7th English and 7th math, and help the other students in one-on-one situations in grades K-6. Through my Title 1 program, I run an after-school Homework Club for students in K-8, and am administrator, planner, and teacher for our summer school held in July.

Education Background: I graduated from Western Montana College in Dillon in 1973 with a B.S. in Elementary Education. In renewing my teaching certificate over the years I have tried to concentrate on math courses that would help me gain knowledge in this area.

Teaching Experience: I taught in the Title 1 program in Whitehall for 2 years, and taught 4th grade in Whitehall for one year. After moving to Sheridan, I substitute taught several years while our sons were young. I was hired as the Title 1 teacher in 1987, a position I hold to this day. I have also been a cheerleading coach and track coach.

Activities with MCTM: I was fortunate enough to be selected to be a writer for the project, MPAW, the first summer in Bozeman in 2001. I continued to be involved with that project for the last 3 summers as a writer, scorer, and trainer in the MPAW materials. I found this experience to be very valuable to me as a classroom teacher, particularly with my remedial students.

Other information (activities, awards, organizational memberships, etc.) I belong to the AFT-MEA organization, teach an after-school Homework Club, teach and plan summer school, and have coached track and cheerleading.

What positive traits will you bring to the board? – I believe that my being a Title 1 teacher will be a valuable resource to MCTM as it plans mathematic activities throughout the state. With the No Child Left Behind law, these students must be considered when planning and implementing new programs and improving older ones. I am an upbeat, enthusiastic person who likes to keep busy. I envision myself helping out wherever needed on the MCTM board, and am happy being a worker behind the scenes, as well as a leader. I have a great sense of humor and with our new laws and mandates, that quality is needed in order to survive.

What role should MCTM take in Montana Mathematics? – I believe that MCTM should be the absolute leader in Montana Mathematics. My hope would be that decisions being made at a state level for our

**MCTM Board of Directors Candidate Information Form
2005 Election**

LINDA RANSFORD

Linda Ransford was born in Rochester, NY in 1957. She grew up in a small dairy farming region of upstate New York. She graduated from Victor Central High in 1976. Linda attended Geneseo State University and graduated with a degree in education. After working as a substitute teacher in the area, she received a teaching position in Woodlin, CO. She headed out west in 1980.

She taught school in this rural district for a year and then moved to Aspen, CO to take a nanny position. She lived in the Roaring Fork Valley for the next year, enjoying life in a ski resort. Linda met Mark Ransford who was attending veterinary school at Colorado State University. They both obtained jobs in Montana. They were married in 1982 and moved north.

This is Linda's 23rd year at the Philipsburg Elementary School. She taught Special Education for the first eight years and has been teaching fourth grade in more recent years. This school year the 4th and 5th grades have been combined. The Ransford's have two daughters, Erin, age 18, and Megan, age 16. They have many interests and hobbies, all of them being outdoor activities that are easily enjoyed in the great state of Montana.

I have been a member of MCTM for most of my teaching career. I am a STARS program presenter for MCTM. I attend the Leadership conference in Bozeman annually.

I am in MSTA and am a teacher/consultant for the MT Geographic Alliance. I present at MEA/MFT several workshops each year.

I am a great organizer and I have lots of energy.

I can't think of any improvement to the role and activities of MCTM. It is the most active professional group in the state and recognized nationally. I appreciate the group's various projects support them by participating. I am proud to be a member of MCTM and recruit membership at every opportunity.

Linda Ransford

MCTM Board of Directors Candidate Information Form 2005 Election

ANGEL GREENLEY

My name is Angel Greenley. My present teaching assignment is K-6 Math Coach for Billings Public Schools. I have a BS in Education with a Math minor as well as a Masters in Education, Interdisciplinary Studies with a math emphasis.

For 8 years I taught 4th-6th grade at Newman Elementary School in Billings. For the past 3 years I have held the position of K-6 District Math Coach.

I have attended the following MCTM sponsored activities.

- **Professional Development Academies** in Bozeman and Missoula during the 2001 and 2002 summer.
- **STARS** workshop held at Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry.
- **Math/Science Leadership Conference** for the past 4 years, and have served on the committee for the Math/Science Leadership Conference for the past 3 years.
- Presenter of several sectionals at the **MEA/MFT Teacher's Conference** in October for the past 4 years.
- Contributor to the MCTM **website** occasionally.
- Presenter for 2005 **Professional Development Academy**

I am a 2005 state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. I have also received the Sallie Mae First Year Teacher Award. I have been invited to several school districts in Montana to present to their district. I am also a Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley consultant, which allows me to do math trainings throughout the western United States.

I bring many positive traits to the board. I have good organization skills, which is demonstrated each year with my role of registering and collecting money for Leadership Conference. I have a strong background in Mathematics, and am current on the best practices research for Mathematics teaching.

I believe MCTM should take an active role in helping teachers to understand the implications of No Child Left Behind and its' effect on them. I also believe that we need to educate teachers about how to reach the subgroups affected by NCLB. Finally, students of mathematics need to have a strong sense of number and it is MCTM's role to help teachers understand the importance of this.

**MCTM Board of Directors
Candidate Information Form
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Lisa Wood

Present Teaching Assignment: Billings Senior High School
Education Background: Graduate of Montana State University
Teaching Experience: 21 years at Billings Senior High School

Activities with MCTM: Past MCTM Board Member
Worked on Leadership Convention
General Chair for the MCTM portion of the MEA/MFT
Convention – multiple times
Presenter for MCTM at MEA/MFT conventions
Actively involved at the local level with the MCTM contest
Facilitated a Workshop for Elementary Teachers in the
Billings Area

Other Information: Writer for the SIMMS Project
Presenter of the SIMMS Materials
Presenter for the NCTM convention
Presidential Finalist
Nominee for the MEA Teacher of the Year Award

I would thoroughly enjoy being a member of the MCTM Board. I am enthusiastic, determined, and responsible. I also find it difficult to say no when asked to volunteer for a committee or for additional work. MCTM has given me much the last 21 years and I would like to give back to the organization.

MCTM has already taken an active role in the professional development of many teachers in the state. I would like to see MCTM continue to expand its professional development strand as well as continue to support teachers financially with scholarships. MCTM does so many things well, keeping its membership informed through the newsletter, providing excellent workshops, continuing to be involved with the Legislature and OPI and just mainly promoting good mathematics teaching in the state. I would like to see MCTM continue these programs and improve upon them where possible.

Quotes and Jokes from the Classroom Teacher!

If you have a quote or joke to share with our membership, please Email them to scottl@billings.k12.mt.us.

What's the difference between an accountant and a statistician? A statistician is like an accountant without any of the charisma. Mark Flaherty

Teacher is introducing a lesson on graphing. She asks the students where anyone has seen a graph before. A little girl raises her hand and says that she has seen a graph before. The teacher asks where? The little girl says at the zoo. Mark Flaherty

These actually happened in the last couple of weeks.

1. I was giving a probability test and one question was “ If 300 junior high students throw ten pennies, what is the most likely outcome?”. One student was dismayed I did not count his answer right. His answer : “ They would mostly be either heads or tails”

2. My son told me this one from the HS.

A boy got a test back in shop. He said “ I missed 6 on the test. What is an 11 out of 30?”. Another student replied “ That is the date, take it tomorrow and you can get 12 out of 1.”. Jim Hamling

ASK BARNEY



Ask Barney 3-05

1. Hey Barn, you ol' mutt. What's shakin'?

My tail, you doofus. But you keep calling me old, you will find out how fast my jaws can be flappin'. And for a "seasoned dog", my incisors are still quite sharp.

2. Barney. Do you know the difference between an umbrella and a dog?

I am afraid to ask. What is it?

The difference is : You can shut up an umbrella.

Hey, I really didn't like that. It is just a habit I have of going on and on and on and on....

3. Since there is so much happening in Montana math, I was wondering if you have heard of anything especially cool that is going on in the state?

You know, I have. As "top dog" in Montana, I travel extensively through out the state. I have the pleasure of seeing lots of math teachers and math programs in action. I love to see the varied ways the fantastic teachers of Montana handle different concepts. I am excited to observe the innovative teaching methods that are in use. Watching teachers present lessons now versus those from the 80's shows that there is a world of difference in teaching methods. There is so much more activity – inquiry methods now rather than the "show and tell" lecture method of yesteryear.

4. Getting back to my original query, tell me specifically what you have observed.

I was passing through Lewistown in the middle of March. I heard on the radio that they were having a "Junior High Parent/Student Math Night". Both students and parents were invited to attend. That intrigued me, so I thought that I would stop and attend. It turned out to be a great evening of information and entertainment. The program was ninety minutes long, but time flew by. Jim Hamling (remember him? – he is the prez) was the emcee. He talked about NCLB and its consequences for the local school system. He also explained the vision for each math class in Lewistown. Katherine Spraggins introduced a couple of standards based activities that the Lewistown teachers incorporate into the curriculum. Rather than doing "drill and kill", the teachers in Lewistown try to present activities that will engage the students and stimulate varied ways of problem solving.

After this activity, they had a Jeopardy competition among the students. They drew the names of three students to come down to the front to compete. They had six different Jeopardy matches. Katherine S had devised a method on the computer to show questions much like the TV game show (it was really good!). Students had agreed ahead of time to put their name in a hat to have the chance to participate. The categories used were : geometry, percents, probability, problem solving and number sense. The local paper was there to take pictures (I didn't make the front page – what a disappointment). I heard that the teachers had the paper advertise the event for a couple of weeks before the actual night. The winners of each of the seven mathces received a \$10 pizza coupon for a couple of the local eateries. What fun! I hear that last year they played a "Who wants to be a Mathematician?" show. For all of you out there reading this column, I highly recommend this as a great way to get parents into the school and participate in their children's math education.

MEA/MFT Fall Conference: SPEAKERS NEEDED!

The fall conference which will be held in Missoula on Oct. 20-21 is only months away. We hope many of you will be able to attend and also hope that many of you attending will agree to present. We all know the wealth of talent and expertise that resides in this state and I sincerely hope you will consider sharing some of that with other professionals.

MEA is encouraging us to consider some additions/changes to our sectionals.

- consider sectionals such as half day or full day workshops in addition to the traditional 50 min. or 1 hr and 50 minute format. If this is something that appeals to you as a presenter, note it on your speaker form and let me know via email so that I can ensure the scheduling reflects your added time.
- try to target early career teachers in sectional offerings. You will note there should be a box on the form to check if your sectional applies.
- ask someone to serve as a facilitator at your sectional helping with access and distribution of renewal unit stickers.
- be conscious of those entering your sectional who are not wearing a badge. Badges will be required for admission to all sectionals. MEA wants us all to be diligent in referring anyone not wearing a badge to the registration table to obtain one.

Note the changes/specifications to the speaker form...

- where you are asked to designate the target groups. Put MCTM as a #1 so that I will get the form for scheduling.
- where you are asked for a preference for days to present. If you want to repeat your sectional place a 1 and 2 in the desired locations, otherwise just choose one. I will do my best to honor your wishes.
- when you type in the title and description of your sectional. This information will be placed into the program just as you enter it.

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MCTM Membership Form

PLEASE FILL IN THIS INFORMATION AND MAIL WITH
CORRECT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO:
Deb Wickum, Box 78, Chester, MT 59522 DebWickum@hotmail.com

ANNUAL DUES PERIOD IS:
September 1 through August 31

Name _____

Address change

Address _____

New membership

Renewal

Phone No. _____ e-mail _____

Contribution to MCTM Endowment (Scholarships & Professional Development Academy): \$5 \$10 \$25

- Regular \$15
- 2 years \$25
- Student \$8
- Retired (no charge)
- MCTM/MSTA \$26
- Institutional \$30
- 10 years \$100
- Life \$150

- College
- High School
- Middle School/Jr. High
- Elementary
- Other _____



Texas Instruments, the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and
The Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

Announce:

A T³ Regional Conference

Building the Power of Science and Math with Technology

Location: Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake and Helena High School

Date: 29 April – 1st May 2005

The T³™ Regional Conferences is designed to help you integrate Technology into your classroom. Great for both new and experienced teachers this workshop builds powerful practices for teaching science and mathematics K-12. Learn how to take your students beyond proficient to advanced! Come join us to take advantage of these opportunities:

- **Attend** beginner through advanced sessions. Learn from experienced educators and respected leaders
- **Choose** from hands-on and demonstration sessions for new and experienced educators while networking with other educators
- **Receive** and exchange lots of great classroom activities and ideas and return to your classroom with a renewed enthusiasm for teaching.
- **Eat and Learn!** Exhibitor's Showcase Luncheon 11 to 2 on Saturday

Who: Lead Teachers, Administrators, All Mathematics and Science Teachers

Where: Friday Pre-conference and Saturday Barbecue and Rendezvous
⇒ Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

Saturday & Sunday Math Conference ⇒ Helena High School

When: Algebra Pre-conference ⇒ 9 am to 4 pm April 29th, 2005

Regional Math & Science Technology Conference

⇒ 8 am Saturday, April 30th to 12 pm Sunday May 1st, 2005

⇒ 6 pm Saturday, Barbeque and Keynote

Cost: \$100 for Pre-conference (includes board & room)

\$55 for Conference (by March 31st) or \$90 for Conference (after March 31st)

Register Now!

Building the Power of Science and Math with Technology

Pre-conference

Montana Learning Center, **Building the Power of Algebra**
Pre-Conference Hours: Friday April 29th 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
7653 Canyon Ferry Road, Helena MT 59602

Saturday & Sunday Conference

Helena High School **Building the Power of Science and Math with Technology**
Conference Hours: Saturday, April 30 – 9:00am to 4:00pm Barbeque and Keynote Sunday, May 1 – 9:00am to Noon
1300 Billings Avenue, Helena, MT 59601

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ E-mail _____

School _____ Work phone _____

Home Address _____ Home phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Select a grade band Elementary Middle (6-8) High (9-12)

Pre-conference Registration Fees by March 31st:

\$100 MCTM/MSTA members (includes room and board) OR (the best deal of all)

\$130 (includes one year MCTM/MSTA joint Membership, room, and board)

Conference Registration Fees by March 31st:

\$55 MCTM/MSTA members (includes a swell T-shirt and refreshments) OR (an unbelievable value)

\$85 Non-members (includes one year MCTM/MSTA joint Membership, a swell T-shirt and refreshments)

Late Registration Fees after March 31st:

\$20 (still includes a swell T-shirt and refreshments)

Volunteer Discount (\$40 off registration): Available to pre-registered participants. Volunteers are asked to assist with conference needs. Please select your preference.

Registration Equipment Exhibit area Other

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Covers a great Saturday evening barbecue and keynote!!!

Please make checks payable to The Montana Learning Center

Email, FAX or Send this completed registration for, along with your fee to: **Jean Howard, Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake**, 7653 Canyon Ferry Road, Helena, 59601, (406) 475-3638, fax (406) 475-3871 jkhoward@montanalearning.org

Special barbecue and keynote Saturday evening at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake!

View the exciting program on MCTM website www.montanamath.org

Nominations Sought for the 2005 Dean Preble Memorial Award for Outstanding Teachers of Mathematics

The Dean Preble Memorial Award for Outstanding Teachers of Mathematics is an annual recognition of teachers of mathematics at all levels in mathematics education. MCTM wishes to recognize an elementary (grades K-8), a secondary (grades 5-12), and a collegiate teacher of mathematics who have made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics.

The Award

This award is given in memory of our colleague Dean Preble, who passed away from cancer in the fall of 1998. Dean was recognized for his unfailing support for mathematics education in the state of Montana. His dedication to the mathematics teaching profession, his love of his students, his involvement in state and national mathematics organizations, and his devotion to the improvement of mathematics education in were unparalleled.

One of Dean's wishes was to establish an annual award to recognize outstanding teachers of mathematics in Montana. In keeping with this wish, MCTM has created the Dean Preble Memorial Award for Outstanding Teachers of Mathematics. The award will consist of an inscribed plaque and a \$100 stipend for the recognized teachers, to be awarded at the MCTM annual meeting in October.

Award Criteria

- Any member of MCTM may submit a nomination. Current members of the MCTM Board may not be nominated for this award.
- The nominee must be a current MCTM member.
- The nominee must have taught mathematics in Montana.
- The nominee must have a record of significant and consistent contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics.
- The nominee must demonstrate a concern for her/his fellow teachers of mathematics.
- The nominee must demonstrate a willingness to continue to grow and improve as a teacher of mathematics.
- The nominee must demonstrate an extraordinary ability to engage students in the learning of mathematics.
- The nominee must have a record of participation in professional activities involving mathematics.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations must be submitted in writing and consist of a maximum of two, double-spaced, typewritten pages. The nominations should directly address the criteria. The name, address, telephone number, and present position of both the nominee and the nominator must be included.

Deadline for submissions for the 2005 Dean Preble Memorial Award is June 15, 2005. Nominations can be sent or e-mailed to:

Cliff Bara
231 Sunrise Lane
Troy, MT 59935

MCTM MATH CONTEST TEST WRITING GRADUATE CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Once again it is time to ask for your help! We need people to write tests for the 2006 MCTM Math Contest. We also need people to proofread tests after they are written. Writing will take place at the Montana Science Institute at Canyon Ferry Lake. Dates of the writing course are July 24-26, 2005. We will start on Sunday afternoon and finish at noon on Tuesday. One Graduate Credit will be available through U of M- Missoula. MCTM will pay a stipend of \$75 per writer for up to 12 writers. Writers will be chosen so that we have an even number per grade range and a variety of locations. Dinner will be provided on Sunday and Monday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Monday and Tuesday. Lodging accommodations at Canyon Ferry will be paid for by MCTM. For more information or to enroll send the enclosed registration form (see opposite page) to:

Satinee Lightbourne
MCTM State Math Contest Director
Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Avenue S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406)268-6399

MCTM Math Contest Writing Course
Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake
July 24-26, 2005
Registration Deadline: **June 10, 2005**

YES, I want to help write the 2006 Math Contest Tests!

NO, I cannot come to the test writing, but would be willing to proofread 2 or 3 tests after they are written. I prefer to read **7-9** **10-12** tests. Tests are to be returned by August 22, 2005.

Name _____

Address(After June 1) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number(s) _____ e-mail _____

Current Teaching Assignment (2004-2005):
Class _____

Grade levels

Lodging and food will be paid directly by MCTM. The course runs from 1-5 pm on Sunday, 8 am - 5 pm on Monday and 8 am to noon on Tuesday. Sign-up for **graduate (U of M - Missoula)** or **OPI credit** will be Sunday afternoon.

Yes, I would like to stay at Canyon Ferry on Sunday and Monday night at no charge to me.

No, I will make other accommodations with the understanding that any charges will be my responsibility.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN HELPING!

Return forms by **June 10, 2005** to:
Lightbourne

Satinee

Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 452-1027 - H or (406) 268-6399 - W

MCTM NEWSLETTER
Great Falls Public Schools
Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Ave. S
Great Falls, Montana 59401

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Editors: Mary Aspinwall, Kathje Dalton, Kurt Shepherd

Montana Mathematics is a newsletter published for all members of the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The publication comes out 5 times/ year and is free to all members of the MCTM. Any information pertaining to MCTM can be sent to Kathje Dalton at Great Falls High School, 1900 2nd Ave S, Great Falls, Montana 59401. All entries will be reviewed.