



# Focus on Math Newsletter



## Lawrence Public Schools

### Edition 5

May/June 2007

#### FOM Successes

##### Study Groups

- Increased participation of teachers across grade levels and programs
- Increased teacher mathematical capacity
- Addressed needs of upper elementary teachers
- Addressed vertical alignment of concepts and applications to classroom instruction
- Developed teacher understanding of concepts through the use of manipulatives at all levels
- Built a stronger rapport between the mathematicians and teachers
- Fostered encouragement and support for district presenters by mathematicians

##### Seminars and Colloquia

- Increased participation of teachers across grade levels and programs
- Variety of topics explored
- In-district presenters along with mathematicians
- Vertical alignment of topics
- Constructivist approach utilized

##### Math Fairs

- Increased student participation
- Encouraged problem-solving
- Developed students' oral and written communication skills

- Provided evidence of students' application of higher level thinking
- Boosted students' self esteem
- Developed "new mathematicians"



Henry K. Oliver FOM Fair

#### Upcoming FOM Study Groups

**Thursday, May 3**

**Elementary teachers**

**SLE Library, 3–5 PM**

Exploring with tangrams and pentominoes

**Monday, May 7**

**LHS, 2–4 PM**

**Thursday, May 17**

**Guilmette, 3–5 PM**

**Monday, May 21**

**LHS, 2–4 PM**

**Parthum, 3–5 PM**

Geometer's Sketchpad

**Tuesday, June 12**

**LHS, 2–4 PM**

## Problem of the Month

### Last Month's Problem:

#### A Juggling Act

You have two unmarked containers that you take to a well.



A



B

One container holds  $A$  liters, the other holds  $B$  liters. Your job is to obtain exactly one liter of water in one of the containers. Explain how you will accomplish this if:

1.  $A = 5$                        $B = 7$
2.  $A = 4$                        $B = 7$
3.  $A = 5$                        $B = 8$
4. Describe how you could use a 5 – liter container and an 8 – liter container to get each of the amounts 1, 2, 3... 13 liters.

*Did you try it? Did you have any students explore it? For solutions email a member of the newsletter staff.*

## Editors' Notes

- *2006-2007 has been a banner year for FOM in Lawrence. So many wonderful things have occurred this year to strengthen our relationship as a mathematical professional learning community and we as a district are better for it.*
- *A special thank you to Al Cuoco, Ken Levasseur, James Graham-Eagle (Kiwi), Steve Benson, Dick Hall, Art Heinricher, Al Doerr, and Marvin Stick for their continued support and guidance.*
- *Thanks also to all the teachers and math/science coaches who participated this year. We really are developing our mathematical community in a positive way. Spread the word!*
- *We appreciate the continued hard work and support from Ava, Deb, and Karina who keep us informed and organized.*
- *To the students from WPI, UML, and BU for their involvement in judging the schools' math fairs, thank you.*
- *And finally, thank you to Dr. Laboy, Gail Rosengard, Michelle Gugliuzza, Donna Chevaire, and the principals for their continued support and encouragement of our participation in Focus on Math activities.*

The Lawrence Focus on Math community wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family, both personal and professional, of Marvin Freedman as we hear of his passing. Marvin was a joy to our community. His enthusiasm often lifted our seminars with brilliance laced with humility. We are so much richer for having known and worked with him.

#### Newsletter Staff:

*Anne Cook, Curriculum Facilitator Mathematics 6-12  
Mary Giordano, Math/Science Coach Parthum School  
Patricia Nastasi, Math/Science Coach Oliver School*