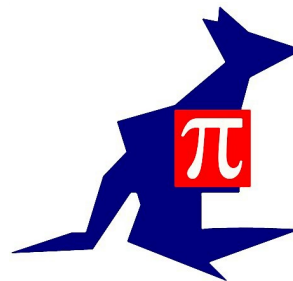


# Math Kangaroo Bulletin



The bulletin of Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP

Volume I, Issue 1 – Summer 2009

[www.mathkangaroo.org](http://www.mathkangaroo.org)

## A Word from the Editor

by Agata Gazal

Welcome to the first edition of the Math Kangaroo Bulletin, the bulletin of Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP. The purpose of this publication is to better connect our volunteers, participants, families and friends with the mission of Math Kangaroo and the developments taking place as participation grows, as well as with each other as part of the larger Math Kangaroo team. With this in mind, starting with this issue, we will be introducing the locations and leaders working with the competition in the US. We will also include relevant announcements regarding matters related to the competition. The bulletin will be published electronically and available through our website, [www.mathkangaroo.org](http://www.mathkangaroo.org). We trust that the bulletin will be of use both to you and to us, the Math Kangaroo Leadership Team.



Map prepared by Joanna Lasek, Math Kangaroo Vice-President and CIO

## A Word from the President

On behalf of the Math Kangaroo Team, welcome to the first issue of the *Math Kangaroo Bulletin!*

Eleven years have passed since the Math Kangaroo competition took place for the first time in Chicago, and it has been six years since a public organization was created to take care of preparing the competition in USA. We believe that many are interested in the history and the scope of our endeavor; these can be accessed on our website and will be featured in future issues of the bulletin. [Sponsors](#) who helped us with the beginning of our organization and those who work with us today need to be recognized.

Let's learn a little more about the people in different states who have been working with us for several years. Let's meet each other! Let's reinforce our friendship in our common mission of helping students love math nationwide!

Enjoy reading!

Maria Omelanczuk, Math Kangaroo President and CEO



Members of Math Kangaroo Team at 2009 Awards Ceremony in Chicago. From left, standing: Joanna Lasek, Grazyna Zmyslowski; sitting: Agata Gazal, Izabela Szpiech, Maria Omelanczuk

## Our Centers

The number of locations hosting Math Kangaroo in USA continues growing. In 2009, the competition took place in 83 locations. We want to take the opportunity to introduce now several of these Math Kangaroo in USA centers, and the leaders who make them a success.

### John Paul II School, Phoenix, AZ. Szymon Latocha



“For the past four years, I have been preparing the Math Kangaroo competition in Phoenix, AZ. We are located at the John Paul II Polish School, at the parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa. I was preparing the competition earlier when I worked as a teacher, but for the past 2 years I have done so as a parent not affiliated with the school.

“Without a doubt, the contest would not have gained such popularity without the kindness of Rev. Eugeniusz Bolda, the pastor of the parish. He sponsored the first Math Kangaroo competition in Arizona in 2003. It is because of his dedication that every year we have about 15 to 20 participants. My wife Renata is an invaluable help to me especially in difficult situations. Our children enjoy participating in Math Kangaroo every year.

“Most of the students return to take part in the competition year after year. There is also a group of children who would want to participate, but usually only let us only once the prizes and diplomas are being awarded. For this reason, we are starting to publicize the competition over a longer period of time, and desire to remind about it especially during school assemblies. We hope that this will raise the number of participants.”

### South Pasadena Middle School, South Pasadena, CA.

#### Doug Buhler

Doug Buhler is the coach of the South Pasadena Middle School math team, in South Pasadena, California.



“I enjoy every opportunity to take math out of the classroom. The competitive side of math is exciting and challenging for my students. We compete in a dozen local, state, national and international events, including the Math Kangaroo. Our math team consists of over 100 students. We practice during homeroom, after school, and even

during the summer to prepare for our various events.

“I first heard about the Math Kangaroo four years ago from the parent of a student. The parent had grown up in Moscow, and remembered the excitement the Kangaroo generated. News spread and soon students from all around the Los Angeles area began to participate. It is good to see that other schools in the area are opening up their sites enabling more and more students to compete.”

### Tallahassee, FL. Sharon West

“This is my third year with math kangaroo and I got involved because a parent of a student I had in 3rd grade told me about it. His daughter was gifted in math, and he wanted something extra for her. I have continued because I like the program and it involves very little extra work for me.



“I am a National Board Certified teacher with 25 years of experience. I began college with the intention of being a high school math teacher. I soon discovered that I loved reading, writing and social studies as well, so the best fit for me was elementary. I have taught about half my time as 5th grade teacher and the other half at 3rd grade level.”

### Doraville, GA. Zoya Dimitrova

“I am a mathematician by training and a firm believer in the importance of math education (and math competitions!). In my day job as a bioinformatics researcher I apply mathematical models to the study of Hepatitis viruses. My hope is that math will help in the discovery of a vaccine for Hepatitis C.



“I love helping kids understand and appreciate the beauty of mathematics and how important it is – no matter what they will become in life. That is why I volunteered to start Math Kangaroo in Atlanta in 2006. I learned about the competition from my friends in Bulgaria where it is very popular and liked the type of the 'Kangaroo' problems very much. The first year I personally knew and recruited most of the participants in our small group. This year the group has grown to 28 students coming from all over Atlanta and some even from the state of Alabama! I am looking forward to Math Kangaroo 2010!”

## Math Kangaroo “Graduates”



Prepared by Izabela Szpiech, Math Kangaroo Vice-President and CFO

Since the beginning of Math Kangaroo in USA, more than 100 high school seniors have taken part in our competition. Some of them had participated for several years with very good results. What are they doing now, how is it related to math, and how do they remember Math Kangaroo?

**Luke**, graduated from high school in 2003.

Luke is completing the second year of his graduate school at University of Honolulu. He is studying Math and Russian and preparing to write his thesis. Luke works as a math assistant at his university. He also continues to be involved with Math Kangaroo by applying the skills he has gained through his post-secondary studies in helping with the preparation of our test booklets. (Thank you, Luke; we invite other graduates to remain involved!).

**Nicole**, graduated from high school in 2004.

Nicole is a junior at Northwestern University in an accelerated math/science program called Integrated Science.

**Dmitry**, graduated from high school in 2007.

“I am currently completing my second year at Purdue University in the school of Computer Engineering. Purdue is currently ranked #10 schools in computer and electrical engineering. I remember Math Kangaroo for its fun math questions, and it certainly helped me in my endeavors at Purdue. Last year, I actually had a question come up in my Calculus 3 class which I forgot how to solve, but it was similar to a question that was on a Math Kangaroo test, and I used the methods of that question to get the right answer on my exam.”

A note added by **Dmitry's parents**.

“Dmitry is very modest and forgot to mention that he's currently ranked in the top 10 of his class at Purdue. And I should say that Math Kangaroo competitions did a very good job in building his ability to solve hard problems and building his self esteem.”

We will try to inform you about our participants' careers in the future as we learn about them.

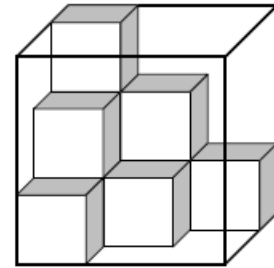
## The Fun Stuff:

### Sample Math Kangaroo Problems from Previous Years

#### For Younger Students

(from Math Kangaroo 2007, levels 3 and 4, worth 4 points)

Annette puts identical cube blocks into a cube aquarium. She has already put in a certain number of them (look at the picture). How many such blocks does she still need to add to fill up the aquarium?



- A) 9
- B) 13
- C) 17
- D) 21
- E) 27

#### For Older Students

(from Math Kangaroo 2008, levels 9 and 10, worth 5 points)

How many 6 digit numbers have the property that when counting from the left each digit past the second is the sum of the previous two digits?

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4
- E) 6

Interested in more Math Kangaroo questions from previous years? You can try the quiz builder on our webpage, prepared by our volunteer, Dr. K. Wlodarski from Clark, NJ. You can also order complete sets of questions and even solutions from Math Kangaroo in USA by [clicking here](#) or following the link on the main page of [www.mathkangaroo.org](http://www.mathkangaroo.org). We hope that these resources can be as much an encouragement for the study of mathematics as the competition itself, and that they will enable students to come on Math Kangaroo Day knowing what to expect.

**Math Kangaroo 2010 will take place on**

**Thursday, March 18.**

**Registration begins early this fall!**

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