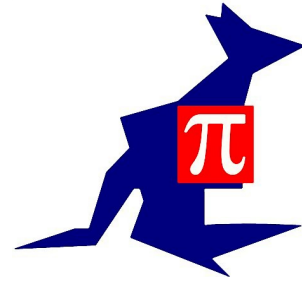

Math Kangaroo

Bulletin



The bulletin of Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP

Volume I, Issue 2 – Fall 2009

www.mathkangaroo.org

A Word from the Editor

by Agata Gazal

This is the second issue of our Math Kangaroo bulletin. You will notice that in keeping with our goal of connecting our various leaders, we are continuing to feature more of our centers. I personally want to thank all those who have submitted information and pictures for inclusion in this publication. If you are interested in telling us about your location or sharing any other material that might be of general interest to the Math Kangaroo community, please contact the editor at agata@mathkangaroo.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Registration for Math Kangaroo 2010 is now in progress. Please remember to register your students before January 20th, and to spread the word. If you would like suggestions and helps for publicity, or need fliers, please contact info@mathkangaroo.org.

A Word from the President

Enrollment for Math Kangaroo 2010 (MK2010) is in full swing now. Thanks to the area leaders classrooms are filling up quickly. Our new [web page](#) makes registration easy. We all are excited and ready for the competition to take place.

The season started with a nice surprise. The Office of Cook County Treasurer honored us with an [Award of Excellence for promoting mathematical skills](#) just a couple weeks before registration for MK2010 started.

Another surprise was that Collins Elementary in Cupertino, CA, filled its 75 seats in less than 10 days.

This year for the first time we are registering

students for the level of grade 1. Those children who are able to read and fill in the answer form independently and are not yet in grade 2 are welcome to register for level 1.

As of November 20, 2009, Math Kangaroo 2010 is expected to take place in 103 centers across 26 US states and territories—and the number of locations is still growing. All participants will be awarded on the test day.

The top winners will receive medals and gifts in May. All will work on fun and engaging math problems which have been prepared during the annual meeting of the international group of mathematicians [KANGOUROU SANS FRONTIERES](#) which I attended this October in Minsk, Belarus.

Talented and dedicated people keep joining our team of volunteer managers for the mission of helping students love math nationwide. We are proud that Wolfram plans to help us with awarding the participants again. Let me use this opportunity and bring here the link that teachers would love if you forward it to them: [Wolfram Alpha in Action in the Classroom](#). After watching the video, be sure to go to www.wolframalpha.com and check it out for yourself!

We all want our children to be mathematically literate. Math Kangaroo makes young people want to know mathematics. Let's bring them all to our centers across USA on March 18.

On the eve of Thanksgiving Day let me wish you all a nice time with family and friends during all the holidays.

Thank you for your support!

Cordially,

Maria Omelanczuk, Math Kangaroo President and CEO

Our Centers

As we did in our previous issue, we now would like to introduce several of our Math Kangaroo in USA centers, and the leaders who make them a success.

Polish Supplementary School at the Polish Cultural Foundation, Clark, NJ. Wanda Mandecki



“I graduated from Warsaw University with an MA in the field of Polish Language and Literature and immediately started to teach at the high school level – first in Poland, and then in the USA. A few years ago, I became a lecturer

of the Polish language at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

“I joined Math Kangaroo in 2001 after relocating with my family from Illinois to New Jersey. Math is a mode of logical thinking, and succeeding in math can be a step to achieving lifetime success.”

UCI, Irvine, CA. Nadia Ginzburg

“I found out about Math Kangaroo competition four years ago from my friends in Russia, where thousands of school students participate in the competition every year. Internet search brought me to the Math Kangaroo in USA site, and my heart fell in love with the simplicity and beauty of the mathematical ideas reflected in the competition problems. The great advantage of this competition is that it involves elementary grades children, as early as second grade. As a former ‘math Olympian’ myself (I got second place on All-Russian Math Olympiad) and a veteran of Russian math circles, I know how important it is to start mathematical education in the elementary grades and how hard it is to develop ‘non-standard’ math problems for younger children. With the support of the parents at Russian Kids Studio Karandash, Math Kangaroo jumped to Irvine, California in 2006. Naturally, it triggered great interest in kids and led to the start of a math circle, which I have been teaching for the past three years. I use many Math Kangaroo problems in my lessons and am very pleased to see the light of great enthusiasm in children’s eyes when they discover the



solutions. From my experience, participation in this competition excites children, encourages them to learn new ideas and methods, and benefits their entire life. Really, everyone wins at Math Kangaroo!

“Currently, I work as a Senior Statistician in a large pharmaceutical company.”

Paradise Valley, Phoenix, AZ. Kishore Narayan

“I came to know about the Math Kangaroo competition through a friend of mine. He was planning to take his son to Los Angeles to compete in the competition.. I checked the Math Kangaroo website that night and was thoroughly impressed. I immediately felt that there should be a center in the Phoenix area. Maria [Omelanczuk] from Math Kangaroo was very helpful in setting up the center quickly.

“We have been conducting the competition for the last three years. My children attend a gifted program in the Paradise Valley school district. The Director of Gifted Education supported us by providing the classrooms for conducting the contests at no cost. We usually have around 40 to 50 students take the contest. We even have students coming from New Mexico to take the contest! In 2009, we had to conduct the contest at our house as the contest was during the Spring Break for the School District that was sponsoring the contest. Due to budget cuts, the School District will not be able to support the contest in the future. My sincere thanks to Unity Math club for agreeing to conduct the contests at no cost in 2010 and beyond.

“As we will have more space this year, we are planning to advertise heavily to get more students involved. We also conduct other academic contests and the children really enjoy coming back each year. We also thank Math Kangaroo for implementing the feedback received from our center and opening the contest for K-1 classes also in 2010. I feel that there is not enough encouragement for academic achievement and academic contests in America and really thank Math Kangaroo for providing a great opportunity for children to learn and enhance their Math skills.”



Taft High School, Chicago, IL (and more). Grazyna Zmyslowski



“Before the Math Kangaroo competition came to Chicago Public Schools Taft High School, where I work as a special education teacher, I started hopping with Math Kangaroo in Des Plaines, IL, where I live with my family and where my two sons have been attending schools.

“My older son Maciek started participating in Math Kangaroo in 2000, when Interclub Education Center, Inc., was involved in organizing the competition. I wanted him to start when he was in 2nd grade—math was always his thing!—but at that time the competition accepted children from 3rd grade and older.

“After driving Maciek to the competition in 2000 and 2001 on gloomy, cold Thursdays in the long rush hours, I realized in 2002 that I didn’t want to spend couple of hours in traffic taking my son to the competition, nor did I want him to lose those hours of the day on a school night. I thought, ‘How about if I bring the “Kangaroo” to Maciek and his brother Marcin?’ So that winter I approached Dr. Chris Schumacher, then the principal of Cumberland Elementary School in Des Plaines, IL (Community Consolidated School District 62), with a question: ‘Would it be possible to host Math Kangaroo in my kids’ school?’ She agreed, but of course I had to put it all together, and why wouldn’t I? For my own kids? Of course!

“With permission from Maria Omelanczuk, who was responsible for Math Kangaroo at Interclub even years ago, I organized the competition at Cumberland Elementary School for the first time in the spring of 2002. There were about a dozen of children from that school and from the neighboring Chippewa Middle School.

“I did get what I asked for: I did not have to drive on a Thursday night in March to Chicago, but I did spend much more time putting everything together for the competition at Cumberland .

“The following year, Dr. Schumacher proudly announced that she shared the information about the competition with all the principals of the District 62. Fliers and posters followed to all 11 schools, and for March 20, 2003, I had well over 60 children from the entire district!

“Within a few years, my older son Maciek graduated from Cumberland and moved next door to

Chippewa Middle School. So did I with my Math Kangaroo fliers and posters. Having Maciek at Chippewa made it easier to talk to this school’s principal and to make sure students and families of the area knew too.

“As Dr. Schumacher retired in 2005 and I had no more children at Cumberland , Chippewa Middle School hosted the competition for a few years, but then my kids left that school too. Consequently, I and my Math Kangaroo fliers and poster graduated. It was time to ‘tame’ Maine West High School, Maine Township HS District 207.

“Maciek was known there before his freshman year (he was taking math classes while still being a Chippewa student) so approaching the high school math teachers and the math department chairperson wasn’t difficult. That’s the story of Math Kangaroo in Des Plaines and its schools.

“Now my son Maciek is a senior at Maine West High School, but I do intend to make sure Make Kangaroo stays there after he leaves this school. Two young math teachers, Paul Depcik and Rachel Levin, support Math Kangaroo greatly and welcome both elementary schools and rival high schools with open arms.

“Math Kangaroo has been with me also at William Howard Taft High School. As the competition grew stronger and stronger with more and more participants each year, finding a location on the northwest side of Chicago that is large enough and yet convenient geographically was a challenge. I suggested to Maria Omelanczuk that Taft High School can host a competition. The idea was well received by the Math Kangaroo headquarters as well as by participants and their parents. Everyone seemed delighted and Taft High School has become a permanent den for my Math Kangaroo. This would not have been possible without great support of Taft’s Math Club with its teacher sponsors, Joann Brownstein and Marek Michalski, as well as Taft’s administrative branch.

“Through the Math Club at Taft and professional development opportunities for teachers of Chicago Public Schools and its northwest region, I had the privilege to present (once with Joanna Lasek and a math teacher from Taft, and then once by myself) the history, philosophy and enthusiasm of the Math Kangaroo organization, the people behind the competition and the community of those who love math and who believe in MK principles.”

From Our Friends

Jill, a Math Kangaroo parent, wrote: “We've moved to Colorado from California, where my children enjoyed participating in Math Kangaroo for several years with Mr. Buhler in South Pasadena. We noticed that the nearest location for us here is in Utah. My daughter spoke with her high school math department, and they are willing to be a new center for Math Kangaroo. I think our entire school district will be interested in advertising the opportunity to participate in Math Kangaroo.”

Thank you, Jill, and thank you to your kids for promoting the competition!

Math Kangaroo “Graduates”



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

One of the Math Kangaroo graduates is Andrew Palczewski from Streamwood, IL.

Andrew has always been very interested and involved in the field of science. He won several competitions including the Illinois Math and Computer Science Competition in 2002 (a Gold Medal winner) and the Matheletes Competition in 2003 (First Place Winner). Andrew is also a recipient of scholarships from Streamwood Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Streamwood. In Math Kangaroo 2003, he was the First Place Winner in the 12th grade category.

Andrew graduated from the Bartlett High School Science and Technology Academy. He finished both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and quickly became an established computer engineer. Andrew is the Chief Technology Officer at ASPA Inc. Computer Services.

Andrew will be returning to the Math Kangaroo competition this year, but this time as one of the hosts at the Streamwood, IL, location, where his mother, Marie Palczewski, has also been actively assisting in organizing the Math Kangaroo competition for the previous years.

Thank you to both Andrew Palczewski and Marie Palczewski for your hard work and continuing support of our competition.

The Fun Stuff:

Sample Math Kangaroo Problems from Previous Years

For Younger Students

(from Math Kangaroo 2008, level 2, worth 5 points)

In two days, a tourist walked 33 kilometers. During the second day, he walked three times as far as he did the first day, and then 5 kilometers more. How many kilometers did he walk the second day?

- A) 12 B) 26 C) 20 D) 25

For Older Students

(from Math Kangaroo 2006, levels 11 and 12, worth 3 points)

There are five cards on a table as shown in the picture. Every card has a letter on one side and a number on the other side. Jacob said, “Each card on the table that has a vowel on one side has an even number on the other side.” Alicia wants to find out if Jacob is telling the truth. What is the smallest number of cards that she must turn over to find out?

E

K

4

6

7

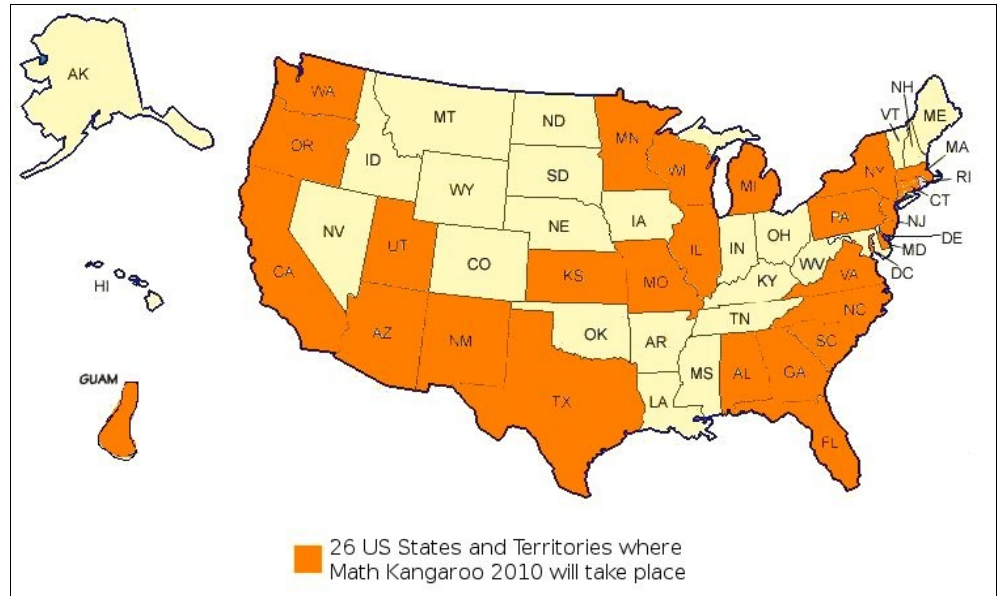
- A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4 E) 5

Interested in more Math Kangaroo questions from previous years? You can try the quiz builder on our page 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 following the link on the main page of 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.**

To register, go to www.mathkangaroo.org.

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



Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP
would like to thank our friends and promoters



Polish-American Media in USA Jan III Sobieski School of Polish Language and Culture

Classic Printing
and Thermography
630.579.7765



AT&T Chicagoland Toastmasters Club

Please contact us at info@mathkangaroo.org if you or your organization are interested in supporting our endeavor.