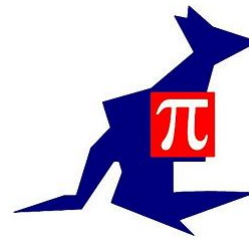


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# Math Kangaroo

## Bulletin



The bulletin of Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP

Volume II, Issue 1 – Winter 2010

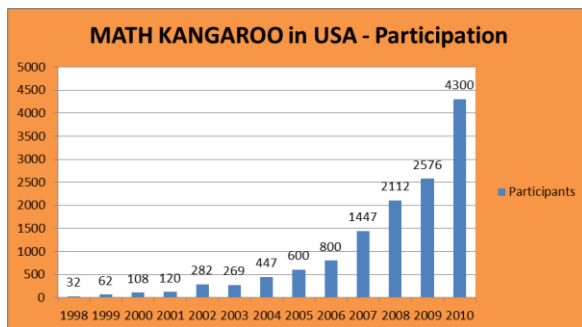
[www.mathkangaroo.org](http://www.mathkangaroo.org)

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### Welcome!

The Holiday Season atmosphere is around us and we all are awaiting Math Kangaroo 2011. Excitement is great, and registration of participants and preparation of the events are ongoing.

Before bringing up some 2011 highlights let us reflect on the last competition for a moment.



4300 students were involved in [Math Kangaroo 2010 in USA](#) in 109 centers in 28 states. (There were 5,800,000 participants worldwide.) All US participants were awarded with Certificates of Participation, t-shirts, and kangaroo toys on the test day, March 18, 2010. In May, 300 National Winners were recognized and awarded with gold, silver and bronze medals, Certificates of Excellence, and prizes. Three students who participated at the level of a senior class in high school were awarded with a \$1000 college grant each. Other awards were: photo cameras, books, USB drives, lunch bags, and Amazon.com Gift Certificates. All prizes and their recipients are listed on the [2010 Results](#) web page. Many photos can be found on the [2010 Photos](#) web page.

For the first time “First in State” winners were recognized and awarded at each level of participation in their states of participation – thanks

to Math Kangaroo State Directors who stepped up to add more joy and fun for the distinguished participants. Some more sparkle was added to our program by including a contest for Math Kangaroo 2011 Poster.

At this time (as of November 2010) registration for Math Kangaroo 2011 is pending in 141 centers across 32 US states until January 10, 2011. Some centers are already full. We expect another record in enrollment which is going to result in more learning, more awards and more joy. Many kids are already excited about the grand award planned for next summer. Five top achievers will be granted 10 days at the International Math Kangaroo Summer Camp in Europe where they will meet winners from other countries to explore tourist sites and mathematical programs.

Math Kangaroo invites all students regardless of their academic standing. Recognition, awards, and question booklets that are taken home all inspire many young people to master mathematics. They come again and again, and each time stronger, more confident, and more proud. We are helping students love math nationwide!



*Article prepared by Maria Omelanczuk,  
Math Kangaroo President and CEO*

Next Math Kangaroo will take place on

**March 17, 2011.**

**Are your children and students signed up yet?  
Everybody is welcome! Registration ends in January.**

For information and to register please see our web page

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## Math Kangaroo Awarded Participants

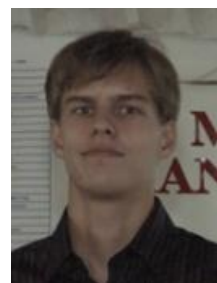
The 2010 edition of Math Kangaroo in USA brought an impressive number of awarded participants. It is no wonder, because the competition was really challenging but the number of the contestants was 1600 more than one year ago. This year, 300 prizes were given to those who earned the ten top scores at each level of participation. At level 9, we have made an exception and recognized 20 top results in our support of nationwide efforts to keep high school students interested in learning and pursuing graduation from high school. We also awarded high school seniors who, with dedication, have participated in Math Kangaroo throughout years and had very impressive scores. In May, **Bartek Bak** (IL), **Shikhar Shah** (IL), and **Maciej Zmyslowski** (IL) received, for their outstanding results and persistence, a \$1000 grant each for their college expenses. Let's learn something about them.



This is what **Bartek Bak** wrote about himself: "I have been a participant in the Math Kangaroo competition since 4th grade. Currently, I am a senior in Northridge Prep High School in Niles, but next year I will be attending Northwestern University, where I will pursue a career in Industrial Engineering. In high school, I was a dean's list student, an Illinois State Scholar, class Valedictorian, 4th, 5th, 6th place at ICTM Math State Finals." Bartek also finds time for sports—he was voted to the IHSA All-State, All-Academic First Team for his soccer. Last summer he also participated in a 3-week-long community service project at an underdeveloped village in Mexico. Bartek has participated in Math Kangaroo for 9 consecutive years.



**Shikhar Shah** is a Glenbard North High School student. He is an AP Scholar and ACT perfect scorer in US. Shikhar is a Presidential Scholar candidate, 2010 National Merit finalist, and State Scholar. He also has been selected in a special GPPA program of Medical Students at UIC Chicago. Shikhar started his adventure with Math Kangaroo in his 7<sup>th</sup> grade and consistently took our test every year since, being always one of the highest scorers.



**Maciej Zmyslowski** is graduating from Maine West High School as a valedictorian. He was the top finalist of AMC for two years in a row, and the only one who qualified for the next level of competition, the AIME. His senior math team won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the division at the NSML. Maciej performed excellently at the ICTM regional competition and was the IML winner for the year. He also has achievements in the sport of fencing in class A and Div.I. Maciej is going to be a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL in the Integrated Science Program. Maciej participated in Math Kangaroo 10 times.

**Are your children and students signed up yet?**

You can find plenty of practice material in [Tests & More](#) section on our web page.



*Article prepared by Izabela Szpiech,  
Math Kangaroo Vice-President and CFO*

## Math Kangaroo Poster Contest 2010



On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Math Kangaroo Award Ceremony in IL, the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual National Math Kangaroo Poster Contest was announced. It was an exciting ceremony. The

winning design from the contest has been used to promote the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Math Kangaroo Math Competition in March of 2011. There were 84 posters submitted for the contest! The endeavor of choosing best poster wasn't easy as there were many great entries in this pool. A panel of judges narrowed down the entries, judged them and made their final decision.

The award for Best Poster went to Luis Rubio. Luis is a sophomore at Aspira Early College (AEC) in Chicago. In all, he submitted 10 posters. His winning entry did a terrific job of capturing the essence of the Math Kangaroo mission, as well as creating a truly powerful poster and message! He received a certificate of award and an iPod.

A few words about the winner: Luis Rubio enjoys a wide variety of interests which include art, technology, playing soccer and hanging out with his friends. Luis enjoys life and is a goal oriented person. He spends time with people who encourage him in achieving his dreams. One of his goals is to attend DePaul University. After graduation he wants to become a Chicago police officer to help protect and give back to his community.

Congratulations to Luis for his winning entry and **a big THANK YOU to all of the participants** who submitted entries this year. As mentioned earlier, the selection process was extremely difficult due to the fine quality of the entries. Watch for flyers featuring Luis's poster.

Again, congratulations to the winner and all the other presenters who made this event so enjoyable. All the posters are still accessed [online](#).

And here is the winning poster!



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

## Our Centers

### Polish Saturday School in Derby, CT;

#### Monika Fryc



I used to be a Math teacher in Poland for eight years and I participated in organizing the Math Kangaroo competition (called Kangur in Poland) in the school I worked in. I still remember the emotions that my students and I had each time we took part in the contest. That is why I was very excited when I found some information regarding Math Kangaroo in the USA during the Polish Teachers conference in Boston in 2008. Thanks to Mrs. Maria Omelanczuk's help, I set up a center in Polish Saturday School where I have been working as a Polish teacher. At the same time, our Math Club called Kangur came into existence. This is the second year we will participate in the competition and I look forward to it because I have noticed that my students enjoy solving the Math Kangaroo problems and cannot wait to participate in the contest on March 17<sup>th</sup> this year.

## Dept of Mathematics, University of Kansas

### Dr. Milena Stanislavova



For most people mathematics is an abstract subject, in which you must memorize formulas and learn algorithms. I see it as a sequence of logical, simple, almost trivial facts, but when you combine them together the right way, you get an interesting nontrivial result. This is where the experts find the beauty of mathematics and what makes it easy for them to understand. It is also the main concept that is missing from the mathematics education of our kids. Students need to grasp the logic of different ideas and how they fit together, similar to putting together the pieces of a puzzle. This is a skill that can be learned by working on problems regularly and developing one's intuition and abilities one problem at a time. It all starts in elementary school where kids begin to form their way of thinking about the world and their attitude towards what they like and what they can do. We need to give them the confidence that they can excel at math and can derive intellectual pleasure from solving a difficult problem. This is particularly important for our young girls. A study of the American Mathematical Society that identified women of extraordinary math ability by sifting through the winners of the world's most elite math competitions found that small nations that nurtured female mathematicians often produced more top competitors than far larger and wealthier nations. The message is clear: cultural or environmental factors, not intellect, are what really limit women's math achievements.

This was my thinking in 2006 when I decided to work on organizing the first Math Kangaroo center in the state of Kansas. I am an associate professor in the Mathematics Department of KU—the University of Kansas in Lawrence, home of the Jayhawks. My area of research is in Partial Differential Equations, Dynamical systems and their applications. I am originally from Bulgaria and had

benefited tremendously from the math circles experiences and my participation in math competitions and Olympiads during my school years. They have shaped my interests, improved my abilities and ultimately mathematics has become my career. My daughter was in first grade in 2006 and she was good at math, so I wanted her to have adequate challenges and to experience the hard work and the thrill of participating and being successful in a math competition. Math Kangaroo was something that many kids were doing in Bulgaria and it was perfect because it involved elementary school children as early as second grade. I wanted to ease the kids into it and set up a Math Club at Langston Hughes Elementary School in Lawrence. We started meeting weekly on Mondays after school to work on difficult and different math problems and the students enjoyed it. Their parents got the confidence to try this new international competition out. We had about 70 students that first year and I am thankful to all the graduate students who helped with the organization and proctoring. We have done it every year since 2007 and the size of our center has doubled since that first year. We had at least two other centers open in Kansas, one of which in Lawrence. Many people in town have started bringing their younger children now and are Math Kangaroo enthusiasts. I can confidently say that I had achieved my original goal—to get the local kids excited about learning mathematics, doing mathematics and even competing in math competitions – all with the help of Math Kangaroo in USA.



32 USA States and Territories where Math Kangaroo 2011 takes place



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

 		
 <u>KANGOUROU SANS FRONTIERES</u>		
 <u>Dobra Polska Szkoła</u>	 <u>Jan III Sobieski School of Polish Language &amp; Culture</u>	 <u>Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce</u>
 <u>Centrala Polskich Szkół Doksztalających</u>	  <u>POLISH AMERICAN CONSORTIUM GROUP</u>	 <u>AT &amp; T Chicagoland Toastmaster Club</u>

Please contact us at [info@mathkangaroo.org](mailto:info@mathkangaroo.org) if you or your organization are interested in supporting our endeavor.

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[Earlier bulletins](#)