

The Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics

NUMBER NOTES

www.mygcctm.org

Mailed on or before October 15, 2007

Focus of the 2007-2008 School Year:
Problem Solving

Problem Solving and Assessment

Guest Speaker

Dr. Brad Findell

Senior Administrator

for Mathematics Initiatives Ohio Department of Education

“The Role of Mathematical Processes in Assessment”



Breakout Sessions

George Viebranz

*“The Use of Problem Solving
in the Balanced Assessment Project”*



Monday, November 12, 2007

Idea Center at Playhouse Square

1375 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

Registration materials and details inside.

Contact George Viebranz, South District Director, george.viebranz@ideastream.org for more information.

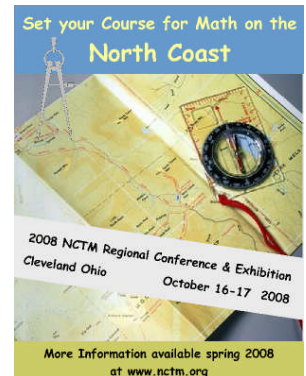
President's Message

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the first quarter of the school year will be history. I cannot help but marvel upon the swift passage of time. It is really hard to believe that I am in my 36th year as a secondary math teacher.

I hope you had the opportunity to attend the OCTM meeting in Columbus. As always, these gatherings provide us with a chance for fellowship and sharing ideas with our friends and colleagues. I hope that you will make plans to attend our next GCCTM gathering to be held at IdeaStream in downtown Cleveland. Details about this South District meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

As you know, Cleveland is the site of an NCTM Regional Meeting in the fall of 2008. There are many opportunities for you to get involved in this venture. We will be the host affiliate organization and I encourage you to help us put forth a great effort on behalf of our city and our organization.

Please encourage your colleagues to join GCCTM. Your involvement is crucial to our organization. Please bring a few colleagues with you to our next gathering. You will enjoy a thought-provoking presentation, a light meal and a chance to connect with other math teachers from across Northeast Ohio.



Since our theme this year is “problem-solving”, I will close these remarks with my contributions for the good of the cause (all problems are from the Stella Collection):

- Even though the ancient Egyptians knew a lot of mathematics, they weren't very good at fractions. In fact, they didn't use any fractions unless their numerators were 1, except $\frac{2}{3}$. If they wanted to say $\frac{3}{4}$, they would write “ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ ”. See if you can find two “Egyptian fractions $\frac{1}{x}$ and $\frac{1}{y}$ such that $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} = \frac{3}{17}$ ”.
- Basil Finrock, born near the end of the 19th century, noticed that he was x years old in the year x^2 . How old was he in 1900?
- You have nine coins, supposedly made of silver. But one is counterfeit and you do not know whether it is lighter or heavier than the rest---it is just different in weight somehow. You have three weighings on a 2-pan scale to figure out which is the counterfeit coin and whether it is lighter or heavier. Good luck...
- The expression below is a limerick. Translate it into English and it will scan perfectly. There are several possibilities for the last line:

$$\frac{12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4}}{7} + 5(11) = 9^2 + 0$$

- What do the following words have in common: Deft, First, Calmness, Canopy, Laughing, Stupid, Crabcake, Hijack.
- Draw any three non-collinear points. Now figure out how to draw a triangle that has these three points for midpoints of its sides. Explain how to do this once you've got it figured out.

Enjoy!!!

Tom Lanning

**Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics
South District Regional Meeting**

Monday, November 12, 2007

5:00 PM – 7:15 PM

**Idea Center at Playhouse Square
1375 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115**

Problem Solving and Assessment

Guest Speaker

Dr. Brad Findell

Senior Administrator for Mathematics Initiatives
Ohio Department of Education



Breakout Sessions

George Viebranz

Meeting Agenda

5:00-5:30 Refreshments

5:30-5:45 GCCTM Business

5:45-6:30 Meet Brad Findell

The Role of Mathematical Processes in Assessment

6:30-7:15 Breakout Sessions

The Use of Problem Solving in the Balanced Assessment Project



Meeting Cost: \$8 for GCCTM members and \$18 for non-members (non-member registration includes 1 year of membership). Non-members must submit a completed membership form with their meeting registration (available in this newsletter or at www.mygcctm.org).

Return your RSVP and receive free meeting parking inside the Playhouse Square Garage at Chester and E. 15th St. compliments of Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition and SMART Consortium.

(Tear off and return completed RSVP with payment by November 2, 2007)

GCCTM South District Meeting Registration

November 12, 2007

Return Registrations by November 2, 2007

NAME: _____ Day Phone (____) _____

Mailing Address _____

School and School District _____

School Phone (____) _____ Grades taught _____

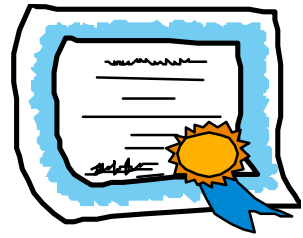
Your E-mail address _____

Make checks payable to GCCTM. Mail registration form and send payment c/o

George Viebranz, 20302 Royalton Road, Strongsville, OH 44149

Phone: 440.241.8401 Email: george.viebranz@ideastream.org

GCCTM South District Award Winner for 2007



Daniel Flood – High School Outstanding Teacher 2007

A teacher touches a life in ways no one else can. Daniel Flood believes he was fortunate to have great teachers who inspired him and made it easy to LOVE mathematics. As a result, his vision is that all students CAN and DO learn if placed in the right situation and supported. He provides his students with a classroom environment that supports their mathematical thinking and encourages conversation, reasoning and questioning. This all leads to students being enveloped in an atmosphere to encourage learning and promote a feeling of success. His goal is to inspire students to learn, and then let them run with their knowledge.

Over the past few years, Daniel has worked with students using the web as a tool in his classroom at Buckeye Junior High School in Medina. His teaching focuses on applying the mathematical concepts to real world situations to deepen student understanding and interest. He has created five web quest assignments in algebra where the students use knowledge gained in the classroom and continue on to create power point presentations for their peers. The web quests provide students with experience finding and using information about investments, careers, statistics and data. Details of the projects as well as examples of student work are available on his web page: www.buckeyeschools.org/dflood. He prides himself in using technology to enhance instruction and promote learning for his students.

Daniel earned a masters degree from Akron University in administration and continues to work to find ways to use technology in the classroom. In 2006 he was recognized as the Buckeye Employee of the Year, and was nominated for the Plain Dealer “Crystal Apple Award”. He is a member of NCTM, The Akron Basketball Coaches Association and the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association. Daniel’s principal says “...he challenges his students on a daily basis ...and is the consummate educator. I am very impressed with his passion for teaching Math.”

Congratulations to Daniel Flood as a south district Outstanding Teacher for 2007.

The Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Membership dues are \$10.00 for one year, \$45.00 for five years, and \$85.00 for ten years. Please continue or start your membership by filling out this form and by writing a check, payable to GCCTM, for the appropriate amount. Mail both to:

GCCTM Membership, 15690 Balmoral Ct., Strongsville, Ohio 44136-2594

If you don't need this form, please share it with a nonmember. Please print or type.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Assignment level (circle as appropriate)

Pre-service teacher K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 College

District (circle): Central East Northeast South West

School: _____

System: _____

Phone (work) _____ e-mail address _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ year(s) membership in GCCTM

Renewal _____ New _____

Central: Cleveland City Region

East: Beachwood, Bedford, Chagrin Falls, Maple Hts., Orange, Shaker Hts., Solon, Warrensville Hts., Summit County schools

Northeast: Cleveland Hts./University Hts., East Cleveland, Eastlake, Euclid, Mayfield, Richmond Hts., South Euclid/Lyndhurst, West Geauga, Wickliffe, Willoughby Hills

South: Brecksville, Brooklyn, Brunswick, Buckeye, Cuyahoga Hts., Garfield Hts., Highland, Independence, Medina, North Royalton, Parma, Strongsville

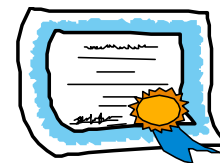
West: Avon, Avon Lake, Bay Village, Berea, Columbia Station, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Ridgeville, Olmsted Falls, Rocky River, Westlake

If your school district is not listed, you are in the region of the school district closest to your own.

CONTACT: Tom Lanning at (440)427-6056 or tlanning@lecca.org for student membership forms

GCCTM South District Award Winner for 2007

Alex Fleming – Elementary Outstanding Mathematics Teacher



“When it comes to the description of a ‘master teacher’ or the consummate educator, you need not look any further than Alex Fleming.” Mr. John Krupinski, principal of Kinsner Elementary School in Strongsville was thrilled to recommend his sixth grade teacher for the GCCTM south district award.

Alex Fleming works to help students build their confidence in mathematics and believes this is done by breaking down the “fear” of math so many students have by 6th grade. This fear is more a fear of failure than a fear of the mathematics itself, so he stresses to students that failure can AND WILL lead to growth and success as they learn from mistakes not dwell on them. In his classes, students experience a culture that supports thinking and risk taking that serves to make learning mathematics fun.

One example of this is Alex’s favorite lesson – if he was really pinned down to have to select one –the grand finale to his fractions unit. This is his favorite because he believes the students take a great deal of responsibility for the learning process AND have fun doing it! He tells students and parents at the beginning of the unit that the students must learn the skills to be proficient in working with fractions and solving equations with fractions and mixed numbers as constants. Then, to demonstrate how important these skills are in life, the students become “bakers”. For the final project, Alex has the students solve problems to identify how much of each ingredient to include in a recipe for cookies or brownies, then actually use real ingredients and bake the goods. Alex does the shopping, the class does the baking and everyone enjoys the end product. This lesson demonstrates his profound belief that the duty of an educator is to provide students with unforgettable experiences in mathematics that increase their learning and love for mathematics. In fact, he has had students that are now in college tell him that they still remember their baking experience.

Alex gives hours of his time to coordinate the school’s annual Family Math and Science Night for over 500 parents and students, involves students in various math competitions (including the GCCTM problem solving tournament), coaches 8th grade boys basketball and boys track. He is a great example of a life long learner – having earned National Board Teacher Certification in 2005, his masters’ degree from CSU in Educational Technology in 2003, and certification as a state institute for reading instruction in 2005. Alex is an adjunct professor for CSU and Ashland, and co-authored a book entitled Organization is Kid Possible on the Way to an A. Alex prides himself in being a mathematics educator and works hard to provide leadership in his school, district and region in teaching and learning.

Congratulations to one of the south district Outstanding Teacher Award Winners – Alex Fleming!



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Secretary Lynn Aring
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East: Carla Kehres
Northeast: Jean Richardson
South: George Viebranz
West: Donna Langenderfer
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5/6 Contest Contact: Nancy Ross
7/8 Contest contact: Adele Cohn
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NCTM Representative: Laura Anfang
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GCCTM Calendar 2007-2008

www.mygctm.org

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Event:</i>	<i>Contact:</i>
Monday, Nov. 12, 2007	South District	George Viebranz
December 12, 2007	Newsletter Deadline	Cathy Staveteig
Week of Jan. 21, 2008	Northeast District	Jean Richardson
February 1, 2008	Newsletter Deadline	Cathy Staveteig
March 14, 2008	West District	Donna Langenderfer
April 4, 2008	Newsletter Deadline	Cathy Staveteig
April, 2008	7-8 Contest	Adele Cohn
Week of May 12, 2008	Central District Awards Banquet	Lou Gliha
Sat. May 17, 2008	5-6 Contest	Nancy Ross / Laura Little

BW Book Club 5 pm Math Building. 10/23 read chapters 3 and 4, 11/08 read chapter 5.
Details at mygctm.org

GCCTM
15690 Balmoral Court
Strongsville, OH 44136

*GCCTM: Renewal notices
are on your mailing label.
Please use the
membership form inside.*

