

Wahpe Woyaka pi (Talking Leaf)

South Dakota Council Teachers of Mathematics Newsletter

Presidential Ponderings

As the fluffy white December snow piles up outside my kitchen window, 2009 draws rapidly to a close. This is a time to look back and reflect on the activities of the year past, as well as look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the New Year.

Last summer, educators from around the state met to work on updating South Dakota's math content standards. The vision and energy exhibited by these K-12+ teachers continues to amaze me. We are truly lucky to have so many in our state with such a passion for mathematics education.

The highlight of my year is always the annual conference in Huron, and last year's event did not disappoint. February in South Dakota can be a cold and cruel month. I always look forward to the warmth and camaraderie found there. Where else could I find a group of people that get my math jokes? Some even found them to be funny. I think...

The upcoming 18th annual conference promises to be another successful event. Make plans to be in Huron February 4-6 for a fantastic professional development experience. This year's featured speakers are Penny Roberts and Chris Olsen. NASA's Keith Van Tassel will speak at Friday night's banquet.

Penny Roberts is a curriculum specialist at Greenville Elementary School in Greenville, Kentucky where she works with K-5 students and teachers. She has been in education for 24 years. During her career, she has been an elementary and middle school teacher, served as an elementary mathematics consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education, and has won a number of teaching awards including being named the 2005 Kentucky Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Chris Olsen taught mathematics and statistics in Cedar Rapids, IA, for over 30 years and is now a Lecturer in Statistics at Cornell College. He was the Iowa recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching in 1986, Regional Awardee of the IBM Computer Teacher of the Year award in 1988, and a recipient of the 1999 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement in mathematics.

Over 100 sessions by South Dakota's outstanding educators fill out the program. Just a few of the intriguing titles include: *Actually, it IS rocket science*; *Thirteen lucky problems for a baker's dozen*; and *Chuck-a-Luck and the big six*. Check the website at www.sdctm.org for the official program. Heck, by the time you read this, it may already be posted! Registration and other conference information can also be found online.

Is your closet full of stuff that you no longer use, but it's too good to throw away? A big success last year, *Share the Classroom Treasures* returns. Bring your excess, good, working equipment or resource materials to the conference. We will be providing a room for you to drop off and give away your things so that other South Dakota teachers with a need can take them to use. (Although it may feel like yours, make sure that it is. If it's marked "School Property", please leave it in school.)



WINTER 2009-2010

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Calendar Notes:

- *SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Conference*
February 4-6, 2010

- *PAEMST Applications due May 1, 2010*

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Presidential Ponderings, cont.

Originally from South Dakota, Keith Van Tassel has been an Engineer at the NASA, Johnson Space Center (JSC) since 1980. He is currently the Project Manager for Pyrotechnics and the JSC Explosives Safety Officer. Mr. Van Tassel holds a BSME from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and a BA in Physics from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a 1974 graduate of Watertown Senior High School in Watertown, South Dakota. I hope that you can join us for his talk on how junior-senior high students may fulfill their dream occupation

“The first recipient of the Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award will be announced during Friday night’s banquet...”

Annual awards will be presented at the banquet as both SDCTM and SDSTA recognize leaders in math/science education. Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) will be honored. I am very excited about a new mathematics award sponsored by Daktronics. The first recipient of the *Outstanding Math Teacher Award* will be announced during Friday night’s banquet.

The conference kicks off with a math sharing session on Thursday night, hosted by yours truly. Imagine *Show and Tell* for math teachers of all grade levels. Bring your favorite idea or classroom activity to share. I’m looking forward to it!

Cindy Kroon
SDCTM President

Share the Classroom Treasures

“Sharing” the treasures was so popular last year, that it will be back for this year’s conference. As you sort through your treasures and “unpack” for the school year...don’t forget about the conference. Start a “save it for the conference” box and plan to bring all your “extras” to the *Share the Classroom Treasures*, scene 2.



PLEASE - No Textbooks or broken/non-working equipment. Although it may feel like yours, make sure it is.



Teachers: Looking for classroom-tested ideas for math and science?



- National Speakers
- Grade-level Sessions in Math
- Grade-level Sessions in Science
- Demonstrations
- Regional and SD Speakers
- Sharing Sessions
- Vendor Exhibits
- Graduate Credit Available

18th Annual SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Professional Development Conference

February 4-6, 2010



All indoors at the newly remodeled Huron Events Center in Huron, SD

Visit www.sdctm.org or www.sdsta.org for complete program and hotel information. Speaker Proposal and Advance Registration forms are also available on the websites.



Return this coupon with your advance registration form to be eligible for a special drawing!



Nominations for 2010 PAEMST

Know a great elementary teacher? Nominate him or her to receive the Presidential Teaching Award!

We're looking for outstanding K-6 math teachers for the 2010 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The awards are sponsored by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation.

Every year up to 108 National Awardees each receive a \$10,000 award, a paid trip for two to Washington, DC to attend a week-long series of networking opportunities and recognition events, and a special citation signed by the President of the United States.

The program is now accepting nominations of K-6 teachers for the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers. Anyone can nominate a teacher. Teachers should submit completed application materials by May 1, 2010. **For more information, including nomination and application forms, please visit www.nsf.gov/pa or www.sdctm.org and click on the awards link.**

*Nominate an
outstanding
elementary
teacher for 2010
PAEMST.*

Area Math Competitions

Many SD universities offer a competition for high school math (and sometimes science) students. I have gathered dates and contact information for some. If you know of others (or if yours is not included) please contact me and I'll be happy to include them in the next issue.

Location	Date	Contact Information
SDSU	October 31, 2009	Don Struck donald.struck@sdstate.edu
NSU	April 14, 2010	Dr. A. Elkhader elkhadea@northern.edu
USD	April 24, 2010	Sandi Shumaker sandi.shumaker@usd.edu
SDSMT	May 10, 2010	Julie Dahl julie.dahl@sdsmt.edu



“...we must keep the development of number concepts at the heart of the mathematics program for young children.”

Developing Number Sense

According to Kathy Richardson, “What children know and understand about number impacts on their work in all other areas of mathematics. We should not underestimate the importance of building a strong foundation in number, and so we must keep the development of number concepts at the heart of the mathematics program for young children.” Allowing students the time with which to deal with concepts involving number is critical. Carving out the necessary time is often times problematic for classroom teachers.

In my classroom, I have developed a time for students to practice private think time and then time for group sharing. Necessity dictates some time constraint, however. Allowing students the time to “wrestle it out” will allow students an opportunity to meet a variety of learning needs while working independently. During group sharing, students learn to contribute, learn by their mistakes, and become more adept at defending their own thinking while respecting that of their peers.

After having been a part of the training for SD Counts, I have become much more aware of making sure the foundation is solid before attempting to proceed.

Linda Clair
Grade 3
Stanley County Schools
Linda.Clair@k12.sd.us

“...writing in the math classroom.”

Having Fun with Proofs

For a change of pace when working with proofs, I have the students write a letter to Santa (mom, dad, grandpa, grandma, whoever) and ask for something for Christmas. Within the letter they need to state 5 legitimate reasons (their proof) why they deserve the item that they are asking for. Not only does this reinforce the whole proof idea, it also a way for me to get students to do some writing in the math classroom. Most of the students really enjoy the assignment and all of them enjoy the break from proofs for a day! :)

Kristen Pittmann
MS/HS Math
Baltic School District
Kristen.Pittmann@k12.sd.us



Kelly Lane Earth & Space Science Grant

Science and math teachers at public, private, or tribal schools in South Dakota may now apply for the 4th annual “**Kelly Lane Earth and Space Science Grant**” provided by the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium. This \$5,000 grant is awarded annually to a select science or math teacher in South Dakota to recognize and support outstanding teachers and innovative educational programs at the pre-college level. **The application announcement for the 2010 grant is posted at the website below.** The submission deadline is 4:00 p.m. on January 11, 2010. The winner will be announced at the science and math teacher’s joint conference in Huron on February 4-6, 2010!

<http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/KellyLaneTeacherGrant.htm>

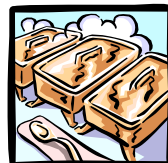
We encourage your applications! Some of you are administrators, but please feel free to forward this announcement to any science or math teachers in South Dakota that you think may be interested. The email list that I used for this “blind cc” electronic mailing is not comprehensive. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tom Durkin

Thomas V. Durkin
Deputy Director
South Dakota Space Grant Consortium
SD School of Mines & Technology
501 E. Saint Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: (605) 394-1975
Fax: (605) 394-5360
Email: Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu
Website: <http://sd.spacegrant.org>

In response to our needs, the Crossroads will have a Breakfast Buffet on Friday and Saturday morning starting at 6:30 for \$6.95. It will available until 10:30 each morning.



*The submission
deadline is
4:00 p.m. on
January 11, 2010.*

SDCTM/SDSTA JOINT SPRING CONFERENCE

Crossroads Events Center, Huron South Dakota
February 4-6, 2010

Conference information and program booklets will be available online at www.sdctm.org and www.sdsta.org

ADVANCE REGISTRATION -- Please print clearly. Postmark by January 20, 2010

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
School/District _____ E-mail _____
Home phone _____ School Phone _____

Please check the appropriate categories for membership, conference registration, and payment.

1. SDCTM/SDSTA MEMBERSHIP(s) and DUES

Please check the appropriate categories. You may join one, both, or neither organization.

Begin/renew SDCTM (math) for one year	Begin/renew SDSTA (science) for one year
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> High School \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> High School \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Secondary \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Secondary \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$20

2. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please check the appropriate categories. Noon luncheon is included for each day that you register.
NOTE: The Friday night banquet is NOT included. Banquet tickets may be purchased for \$20 each.

I will attend the conference on (check one): Friday Saturday Both days

SDCTM or SDSTA Member	Non-Member	Student Member
<input type="checkbox"/> One day \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> One day \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> One day \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Two days \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Two days \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> Two days \$25

Check here if this is the first-time you have attended the SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Conference.

3. PAYMENT

*Make checks payable to SDCTM.
Purchase orders will NOT be accepted.*

Membership SDCTM	\$ _____
Membership SDSTA	\$ _____
Registration	\$ _____
Friday Night Banquet (\$20 each)	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Requests for refunds must be received by January 20, 2010

4. SEND THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT

Steve Caron
907 South 16th Street School phone (605) 725-8208
Aberdeen, SD 57401 Home phone (605) 226-2292

Email: steve.caron@k12.sd.us

Advance registration must be postmarked by January 20, 2010

Please check here if you have also submitted a speaker proposal form for the 2010 Conference.

“JIM GOEHRING SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE LEADERS”

“The Jim Goehring Scholarship for Future Leaders” has been established to encourage new teachers of math and science to become professionally involved on the state level. The scholarship, which is good for a free one or two day registration at the Joint Conference of the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the South Dakota Science Teachers Association, is available to any teacher who meets each of the following criteria:

- Is a K-12 teacher of math or science who is in the first year of teaching in SD
- Belongs to SDCTM and/or SDSTA Applicants must pay their own dues to the chosen organization.

The application process is simple. Fill out the form below, have it signed by the building principal, and mail it to Steve Caron along with the regular conference registration form which is available at www.sdctm.org.

2009-2010 APPLICATION
“JIM GOEHRING SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE LEADERS”

Name:

School District:

Teaching Assignment:

Membership Information:

_____ I am already a member of SDCTM SDSTA (Circle one or both)

_____ I am joining SDCTM and/or SDSTA (Circle one or both)

I am enclosing a check for

_____ \$5.00 for Elementary Math and/or \$5.00 for Elementary Science

_____ \$20.00 for MS/HS Math and/or \$10.00 for MS/HS Science

(Name) _____ is in his/her first year of teaching in SD at
_____ School District during the 2009-2010 school
year and is thus eligible for ‘The Jim Goehring Scholarship for Future Leaders.’”

Signed: _____, Building Principal



Print a copy of this form. Mail with check payable to SDCTM to:

Diana McCann
41876 Apple Tree Road
Springfield, SD 57062

Name _____

School Name _____

Subjects or Grades Taught _____

Addresses

Home _____

School _____

Mailing Address: _____ Home _____ School

Home Phone _____

School Phone _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail _____

Membership categories (Check only one)

- _____ Elementary School \$5.00
- _____ Middle School / Junior High \$20.00
- _____ High School \$20.00
- _____ Post Secondary \$20.00
- _____ Retired \$5.00
- _____ Student \$5.00



SDCTM Newsletter
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