



Wahpe Woyaka pi

(Talking Leaf)

South Dakota Council Teachers of Mathematics Newsletter

Presidential Ponderings

Welcome to 2014. Hope you counted more blessings than troubles last year. As a teacher there is always a nice break before the New Year to catch your breath and prepare for the second half of the year. There are four months in your rearview mirror and five stretching ahead of you. So how are you doing? Ahead or behind? Feeling like things are moving right along or starting to feel that little sense of panic – can it really be almost half way! Whichever it is, join your fellow math teachers at our annual conference, Feb 6th, 7th, and 8th in Huron. It is a great opportunity to connect with other teachers. We have sessions to fit all grade levels.

Our math featured speakers this year are Fawn Nguyen who blogs at “Finding Ways to Nguyen Students Over”, is a regular on the math twittersphere and also authors 3 other websites. Our other speaker is Sandy Atkins, the owner and Executive Director of Creating AHAs. She works with students and teachers in grades K-8. The full conference brochure should be online shortly, if not already, so make plans to head to Huron. We had a great turnout last year and the conference just keeps getting better and better.

Speaking of the conference, if you are planning to attend and will arrive Thursday evening, stop by the math sharing session. Bring your favorite ideas and classroom activities to share along with copies of your activity so others can leave with it. I know that I always come away with new ideas that I can use with my students.

I suppose I can't go without mentioning the Common Core. After all the controversy it will be interesting to see what happens in the legislature. Remember that you are the experts in the field and should let your legislators know how you feel about the Common Core. As for the actual teaching of the Standards, it is slow going in my classroom. This year was to be a transition year so I am still picking up things that will have been taught earlier when we are, what should I call it, fully operational. It seems that enough of what my students are leaning is new to them so it is taking time to build the foundation for the depth of understanding. I look forward to your thoughts on the subject when I see you in Huron. I have also been piloting a unit as we are prepare for textbook adoption and the conference will give me the opportunity to visit with both teachers and publishers about texts. One more reason to head to Huron!

On an exciting note, the Presidential Award winners for 2012, yes 2012, have finally been announced. Congratulations to the mathematics awardee, Erin Marsh, who teaches at the Pierre Indian Learning Center and to the science awardee Ann Anderson from Belle Fourche Middle School. I'm not sure why the award process got so far behind but it is time to nominate K-6 teachers again as the nomination deadline is April 1 and the application deadline is May 1, 2014. Check out the website <https://www.paemst.org/> for information. I am sure our current awardees and well as previous awardees would be happy to lend advice to anyone considering an application.

Keep up the good work. Hope you see you Huron.

Ellie Cooch
SDCTM President



WINTER 2013-2014

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Calendar Notes:

- SDCTM/SDSTA Conference February 6—8, 2014
- PAEMST Applications Due May 1, 2014



*Congratulations to
Erin Marsh, Pierre.
She is South Dakota's
2012 PAEMST
Awardee!*

*"Nominations for
the 2014 PAEMST
are now open."*

2012 PAEMST Awards Announced

December 20, 2013

WASHINGTON, D.C.--President Obama today named 102 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This year's awardees represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The educators will receive their awards at a Washington, D.C., event in the coming year. The [Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The 2012 awardees named today teach kindergarten through 6th grade.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration.

"These teachers are inspiring today's young students to become the next generation of American scientists, mathematicians, and innovators," President Obama said. "Through their passion and dedication, and by sharing their excitement about science, technology, engineering, and math, they are helping us build a promising future for all our children."

Excellent math and science teachers, exemplified by these awardees, are critical to getting more students engaged in the increasingly important science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. That's why President Obama has committed to strengthening STEM education and has called for preparing 100,000 excellent science and mathematics teachers over the next decade--a goal that inspired the creation of "100kin10," a coalition of leading corporations, philanthropies, universities, service organizations, and others working to train and retain STEM teachers across the nation. The President has also proposed to further strengthen the STEM teaching profession by launching a new STEM Master Teacher Corps, leveraging the expertise of some of our nation's best and brightest teachers in science and mathematics to elevate the teaching of these subjects nationwide.

Nominations for the 2014 PAEMST are open through April 1, 2014. For more information about PAEMST, please visit www.paemst.org/.

See NSF's [PAEMST Fact Sheet](#) for more information about this award.

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?org=NSF&cntn_id=129978&preview=false





K-5 Corner

Greetings Elementary Educators!

I'm hoping to see many of you at the SDCTM conference in Huron next month! I can't believe the year is half over for many of us. It really does seem to go faster every year doesn't it? With the mid-year point, comes report cards and assessment recording; but as we know assessment doesn't only happen at benchmark times during the year! We as educators have become experts at formative assessment in our classrooms. This type of assessment is key to guiding our instruction and assisting in student success!

According to NCTM, "The United Kingdom Assessment Reform Group has laid out five requirements for assessment to improve learning (Hattie, 2012):

1. The provision of effective feedback to students
2. The active involvement of students in their own learning
3. The adjustment of teaching, taking into account the results of the assessment
4. The recognition of the profound influence that assessment has on the motivation and self-esteem of students, both of which are crucial influences on learning
5. The need for students to be able to assess themselves and understand how to improve"

The use of learning targets, specific and timely feedback, strategic questions, and self-reflection in true formative assessment all lead to these five requirements, which lead to student success. Like anything worthwhile, it does take time and patience, and a change in thinking and teaching practice. But the payoff of student success in the end is invaluable!

Happy Assessing!

Geekfully Yours,

Lori Stverak

1st Grade Teacher, Rapid City Area Schools

SDCTM Elementary Liaison

Lori.Stverak@k12.sd.us



"...the payoff of student success in the end is invaluable!"

REMINDER:

The SDCTM/SDSTA Conference will be held
in Huron February 6-8, 2014!!

WE NEED YOU!!!

You all have something to share. Think of a fun lesson, or something neat you do in your classroom and SHARE it with other teachers!!!

Follow the link below to register to attend the conference,
and PLEASE consider presenting.

We need more elementary presenters and attendees.

It's up to you!!!!

See you there!!

Conference Registration (Due by January 20th): <http://www.sdctm.org/documents/2014conference/registrationform2014.pdf>



"We are teaching more than mathematics to our students."

9-12 Spotlight

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and wishing you the best in 2014. A new year is a great opportunity to reflect both personally and professionally. Reflection can be difficult at times, but necessary for growth. I encourage you to take some time to really think about the lessons and activities from the first half of the school year. Celebrate the successes while also acknowledging the failures. Self-evaluation is part of becoming a better teacher. It is the time for the yearly tradition of resolutions. My challenge to you is to set a teaching New Year's resolution. Find an area of teaching you would like to improve upon for the second part of the school year. Then set a few goals to encourage and drive you along the way. TeachHub.com sited the following as the Top 12 Resolutions for Teachers.

- Stay positive
- Spice up your classroom routine
- Build fitness into your curriculum
- Get you work/life balance in order
- Give individual time and attention to students
- Get organized
- Don't let admin & school policies get you down
- Plan your move up the pay scale
- Set goals and avoid autopilot mode
- Get students involved/empowered
- Make better use of planning
- Dress to impress yourself

To read the full article go to <http://www.teachhub.com/top-12-new-school-year-resolutions-teachers>

My personal teaching resolutions for the new year, new semester is to increase technology integration into my classroom with 1 new "tool" every week. The "tool" can include a new iPad app, a new website, a new animation, a new tutorial, or a new video clip, basically any different tech tool from what I have used in the past. The second resolution correlates with the first. As I find and incorporate these new tools I am going to share them with my colleagues at our Tech Tuesdays (technology sharing sessions). I hope to encourage others to increase effective technology integration along the way. My goals to make my resolutions stick include: joining an on-line educational social network, observing a techy peer teacher, subscribing to a technology journal, watching a technology webinars, and keeping a reflection notebook along the way. A tip for making your new teaching resolution stick is to share it with others. Here is a link and a QR code to a Padlet (on-line bulletin board with post-it notes) so you can post your resolutions. <http://padlet.com/wall/bp9rrl97k>



Hope to see you all at the 2014 SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Conference in Huron February 6th – 8th.

Ms. Lindsey Brewer
SDCTM Secondary Liaison
Lindsey.Brewer@k12.sd.us



Higher Ed Viewpoint

As I type this letter, final exams have all been proctored and we are putting the finishing touches on some final housekeeping details for the semester. At this time of the semester I usually reflect on how fast the semesters seem to fly by and do a self-evaluation of the courses I taught. The common question seems to plague us all, "Did I do everything I could to connect with and to motivate my students this semester?" With the Christmas season and generosity of good-will all around us this time of year, it is easy to want to do what we can for the students when we give out grades. We need to stand firm and fair when we distribute grades. A hard lesson now will save them much more costly lessons later on in life. We are teaching more than mathematics to our students. We are teaching the important lessons of life such as responsibility, accountability, and time-management.

On the higher education front, we have all been very active with trying to get our students to be successful in our entry level math courses. We have done a lot of work with different modes of course delivery, as well as different course offerings and prerequisites. I am happy to say that a lot of our efforts seem to be paying off with higher success rates for our students at the universities. We all know that it isn't rocket science. If we can just get the students to sit down and do the math, they are successful. I'm hearing a Nike slogan here somewhere... I dearly hope that we can devote more attention in the future to our students that are more mathematically advanced and become our majors. There is a major push on universities these days to attract and recruit students into the STEM disciplines. Anything you can do for us there would be greatly appreciated. We would be happy to come to your classes to talk about career options!

I look forward to seeing you all in February at our joint meetings. We will be holding a Q&A session again with Higher Ed. and I invite you to stop in to ask any questions you may have of us. We will also be sharing some information about options of courses for students that don't score high enough on the Smarter Balanced Assessments this spring to place in the "on track" or "advanced" categories. I believe we will also be holding some early spring forums at various locations around the state to advertise these as well.

If you ever have any questions or comments on how we can better serve your students as they make the transition to our universities, please do not hesitate in contacting me. I wish you all many blessings for the New Year.

Regards,

Dan Van Peursem

Dan Van Peursem
Higher Ed Liaison for SDCTM
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The University of South Dakota
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"We are teaching more than mathematics to our students."



"The award seeks to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the state through the support of innovative programs in pre-college education."

"We anticipate providing \$5000 in award funding..."

Kelly Lane Earth & Space Science Grant

Science and math **teachers** at public, private, or tribal **schools** in South Dakota may now apply for the 8th 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. The award seeks to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the state through the support of innovative programs in pre-college education. **The application announcement for the 2014 grant is available at the website below.** Preference will be given to applications focusing on topics pertaining to space science, earth science, and/or the use geospatial technology.

Applications must be received by **January 27, 2014**. The winner will be announced at the science and math teacher's joint conference in Huron on February 6-8, 2014.

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

We encourage your applications! Please forward this announcement to any science or math school teachers in South Dakota that you think may be interested.

Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award

The **NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium** <<http://sd.spacegrant.org>> invites applications for the **2014 "Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award"**. We anticipate providing \$5,000 in award funding under this call-for-applications. Eligibility to apply is limited to teachers/educators who have taken robotics training through the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium, or who have sustained robotics programs/curriculum in their classrooms or at their schools. The application and instructions are online in both Word and PDF formats at the following websites. This is a great opportunity if you are a teacher of robotics. Applications must be received by **Jan. 27, 2014**.

Application and Instructions downloadable in **Word** format

<http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/RoboticsMaterialsAwardAppFY2013.doc>

Application and Instructions in **PDF** format

<http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/RoboticsMaterialsAwardAppFY2013.pdf>

Please forward this announcement to any teachers/educators in South Dakota that you think may be interested If you have any questions, please let me know.

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

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Website: <http://sd.spacegrant.org>



Statistics Teacher Network

The **Statistics Teacher Network** is a newsletter published three times a year by the [American Statistical Association](#) - National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Committee on Curriculum in Statistics and Probability for Grades K-12.

STN is a free publication whose purpose is to keep grades K-12 teachers informed of statistical workshops, programs, and reviews of books, software, and calculators. In addition, articles are included that describe statistical activities that have been successful in the classroom. Contributors come from all levels of statistical expertise.

If you want to be informed of when future editions of STN are available, you can subscribe to the STN e-mail list by sending an e-mail message to rebecca@amstat.org. Contact Rebecca Pierce for further information, including volunteering to write or review articles. rpierce@bsu.edu
<http://www.amstat.org/education/stn/>

Share the Classroom Treasures

“Share the Classroom Treasures” has been a huge success at recent conferences. It is amazing the number of items that change hands! What a wonderful way to support one another. Don’t forget to bring your “Treasures” that are no longer of use to yourself...and be sure to stop by the “Sharing” space. You just might find something that you can’t live without. :)



Remember ... Leave school items at school...only bring personal items to “share”.



Share the Wealth

I like to include activities in each newsletter. I know that we have some of the world’s best math teachers teaching in the state....and some of the most generous. However, I’ve come to realize that we are also some of the most modest. You never think what you are doing is “good enough” to include in the newsletter. Let me assure you that it is! If it works for your students, I know that at least one other teacher would find it helpful as well. I challenge you each to submit at least one activity...no matter how small or how large. You can include pictures of your students (and you if you’d like). Past submissions have sometimes included a student worksheet, others have not. It can be as simple or as complex as you are comfortable with. Sometimes, a simple idea (with or without handouts, pictures etc) can be like a gold mine to the teacher that is looking for just the right thing.

Send submissions to: smcquade2@sfcss.org

“Sometimes a simple idea can be like a gold mine ...”



“GOEHRING/VGKTZ LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP”

“The Goehring/Weitz Leadership Scholarship” 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
- Is a member of 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.

APPLICATION “GOEHRING/VGKTZ LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP”

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 \$20.00 for MS/HS Science

(Name) _____ is in his/her first year of teaching in SD at _____ School District during the _____ school year and is thus eligible for ‘The Goehring/Weitz Leadership Scholarship.’

Signed: _____, Building Principal

2014 SDCTM/SDSTA JOINT CONFERENCE

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

Crossroads Events Center, Huron South Dakota
February 6-8, 2014 1-800-876-5858

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

Please print clearly. Postmark by January 20, 2014. After this date, please register on-site.

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

- Elementary \$5
- Middle School \$20
- High School \$20
- Post-Secondary \$20
- Student \$5
- Retired \$5
- Other \$20

Begin/renew SDSTA (science) for one year

- Elementary \$5
- Middle School \$20
- High School \$20
- Post-Secondary \$20
- Student \$5
- Retired \$5
- 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 \$25 each.

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

SDCTM or SDSTA Member

- One day \$50
- Two days \$75

Non-Member

- One day \$100
- Two days \$125

Student Member

- One day \$15
- Two days \$25

College credit will be available; information/registration will be available at the conference registration table.

3. PAYMENT

Make checks payable to SDCTM.

Purchase orders will NOT be accepted.

Membership(s) total \$ _____

Registration \$ _____

Friday Night Banquet (\$25 each) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Requests for refunds must be received by January 20, 2014

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, 2014**.
After this date, please register on-site.

Please check here if you have also submitted a speaker proposal form for the 2014 Conference.



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

**Diana McCann
31133 Bon Homme Road
Tabor, SD 57063**

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
- Other \$20.00



SDCTM Newsletter
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