Mathematics Society

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- Mr. K.B. Ching
- Mr. Y.K. Ng
- Mr. W.Y. Yip
- Mr. C.H. Wong
- Dr. P.L. Ho

Ever since its establishment in 1991, the Mathematics Society has taken up its responsibility in enhancing the Mathematics atmosphere at school and arousing the students' interest in Mathematics. This year, we did not fail to upkeep this tradition and continued to bring Josephians a deeper insight into Mathematics through a wide range of activities:

Internal Activities

1. Recruitment Week (October 2003)

During the recruitment week in October, a counter was set up in the New Hall for introducing and promoting our society. Our counter had caught wide attention and had successfully attracted a record high of over one hundred members. We were delighted to see their enthusiasm in taking their first stride into the glistening space of Mathematics.

2. Rubik's Cube Course and Competition (November 2003)

A Rubik's Cube is built from smaller cubes, three to an edge, i.e. a 3x3x3 cube. By rearranging the small cubes at each face, the cube can be solved as quickly as 20 seconds!

To enhance training of logical mind and critical thinking, we have organized a Rubik's Cube Course and Competition in November. More than 40 students were packed in the Junior Science Laboratory on four consecutive days after school, wishing to crack open the secret of the cube. The Course was generally well received, as the students got the sense of pride and satisfaction when they were able to restore the cube into the original pattern. The Competition that followed in form of time challenge boosted the Course to the climax as all participants competed tensely for using the least time to solve the cube. This fever swept across the school, and Rubik's Cubes could now be easily found in every classroom. Some students even started collecting other Rubik's puzzles like Megaminx, Pyramorphix, Skewb Ultimate and Square-1.

3. Mathematics Journal and CD Euclid (January 2004)

The Mathematics Journal, together with CD Euclid, offered members a chance to broaden their visions in Mathematics interactively. The Journal shared the knowledge about illusions, paradoxes and interesting questions; whereas the CD contained mini-games and useful Mathematics software on graphing and word processing. The questions and the mini-games inside were well appreciated by the lower form students.

4. Tutorial Class and Josephians' Olympiad

During lunch-time from November to May, tutorial class and Mathematics Olympiad trainings were held in the science laboratories, aiming to allow students to cope with different levels of challenging

problems. We also organized Josephians' Olympiad to select students to be the members of the Mathematics School Team. Their exceptional performance was indeed out of our expectation.

External Activities

1. Open Day 2004 (March 2004)

On the Open Day 2004 celebrating the 129 years of history, our society hosted a booth at the open playground to promote the Mathematics development of our school. That day, many students and children were fascinated by the computer simulation and interactive Mathematics games. Also, visitors were very keen on the collection of the Rubik's puzzles displayed and brought their favourite ones home.

2. Joint School Mathematics Camp (April 2004)

As the highlight of the year, the Joint-School Mathematics Camp, jointly organized by Belilios Public School, Queen's College, St. Paul's College and Wan Yan College Kowloon, was proven to be another success.

The function consisted of an orientation day in the New Hall and a day camp in the Breakthrough Youth Village. Other than arithmetic and lecture, the emphasis on the two days was on group games, tasks and treasure hunt, which required participants' teamwork, physical fitness and mental mind. It featured the message of the function: Mathematics is Fun. The art and craft, model building and presentation aroused their awareness of the importance of Mathematics in daily life. Although time had never been enough for exploring more on Mathematics, they all had developed friendship with students of the same interest in other schools and enjoyed the programme.

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. T.W. Leung for squeezing his invaluable time from his tight schedule to give us such glamorous lecture on Number Theory.

3. Joint-School Mathematics Competition (April 2004)

With the same belief of exposing lower form students to external competitions, we came together with Marymount Secondary School and organized the Joint-School Mathematics Competition on 19th April 2004. The Competition lasted for an hour and the paper was written in the format of Mathmatics Olympiad. During the Competition, students of both schools demonstrated a genuine sharing of views in tackling the problems and the art of cooperation.

4. Mathematics Olympiad

As usual, our Mathematics School Team participated in various external Mathematics competitions and achieved excellent results. This year, we have successfully captured the First Runner-up of the Inter-school Mathematics Contest and Chong Gene Hang Mathematics Quiz, and entered the final round of the Hong Kong Mathematics Olympiad. Moreover, some of our students have accomlished several Mathematics awards. This is quite encouraging.

It had been a fruitful year, to us the executive committee, to the Mathematics School Team, and to our fellow members. We met and worked together with other mathematics high achievers in the Hong Kong Joint-School Mathematics Society; the Mathematics School Team registered very outstanding results in many large-scale competitions; our members enjoyed the wide range of activities — from tutorial classes to Josephians' Olympiad, from Rubik's Cube Course to Mathematics Camp — we agreed that Mathematics was more than a school subject.

It is the unfailing support from our Teacher Advisers, Mr. K.B. Ching, Mr. Y.K. Ng, Mr. W.Y. Yip, Mr. C.H. Wong and Dr. P.L. Ho that guided and got us through the year. Mathematics brings new discoveries and findings in science and technology; Mathematics sets the basis of accounting, stock and finance; Mathematics bridges the world of communications.