Mathematics Society

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Introduction

The academic year 2004-2005 could be regarded as one of the most spectacular years in the history of the Mathematics Society. Rather than maintaining the traditional 'scholastic' image, the club is transformed into an active, vivid and interesting family of creativeness and coherence. Our apporach was revolutionary, and our reward was unprecedented.

Recruitment Week

(9th-13th October, 2004)

The 5-day recruitment process was designed by the Students' Union to let junior students understand the school's clubs better. The Society this year showcased some models such as the Hanoi's Tower and the Rubik's Cube. 80 new members, together with 40 old members, joined the Society.

Publication — Aspiration: An Official Math Journal

(Octboer, 2004)

The first ever official Mathematics Journal of St. Joseph's College was out. Gazetted were articles written by Mr. Ching, Mr. Ng and the Executive Committee members of the Mathematics Society. Thanks to the collaboration all of them, the magazine was a great success. A copy was given to our Principal, the Math teachers, local schools and each club member. The 20-page journal has a colored cover and back, with its content ranging from Mathematics History to Genius Problem Challenges.

Inter-Class Mathematics Competition (Individual Event)

(November, 2004)

Form 1-3 students all had one of their Math lessons rescheduled, in order to complete a speed test designed by the Society's Committee members. Twelve questions were set for each Form, ranging from simple number system to college algebra. The top three scorers from each class were selected to attend our Math Olympaid Training Class, and would also compete against one another class after the final exam in 2005.

Math Olympaid Training Class (by nomination)

(November, 2004-January, 2005)

As mentioned above, the class is designed for students who performed outstandingly in the Inter-Class Mathematcis Competition. The organizer-in-chief is Sam Wong from F.3E, who prepared lecture notes,

sample problems and screening tests for students. The class focuses on teaching students advance problem-solving strategies, and training students' mind of critical thinking. It was held in the afternoon of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Open Day

(30th January, 2005)

The Mathematics Department joined the Society, and together we hosted an exhibition in classroom 2D. The models displayed were Hanoi's Tower, Rubik's Cube, Locks and Keys, 3D puzzles, Math Chesses and some more. Helpers were there to demonstrate how to crack the games, and the responses were overwhelming.

We also have a Mobius' Strip workshop and an Archimedes' Puzzle workshop. Children, students, even teachers and parents joined us to creat the models themselves. A Mobius Band and a set of Archimedes' Puzzle were given to visitors at random. Computers were used to display projects of students, and games were installed for visitors to play. Rubik's Cube was available for sale in order to cover the decoration expenses. It was a wonderful experience to all visitors and helpers.

Rubik's Cube Class

(February-March, 2005)

A lot of students possess the Rubik's Cube, yet most of them don't know how to solve it. That is why we organized this class, in order to teach students how to demystify the intricate toy. Every Wednesday and Thursday after school classes were held in the AV Room, with five to eight students each time. Committee members were there to teach them one by one how to recognize the patterns, the moves and the fastest way to tackle the cube. Although not all learners succeeded in the end, most of them enjoyed.

數學遊蹤 — Kowloon Wah Yan School's invitation

(25th March, 2005)

Breaking the traditional impression of Mathematics, the Joint-School activity, 數學遊蹤 held on 25/3 was a great event to tell us math can be active and even physically exhausing. Attendants had to explore checkpoints one by one, by obtaining answers as the hints. Running and sprinting, attendants spent nearly 3 hours to finish all questions.

CE Lecture — Mathematics, Additional Mathematics

(16th April, 2005)

The long-awaited CE Lecture organized by the Hong Kong Joint-School Mathematics Society took place in St. Joseph's College New Hall. The General Mathematics (G. Math) Section was from 11:00AM to 12:30PM, whereas the Additional Mathematics (A. Math) Section was from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. The speaker for the G. Math Section was Ray Cheng from St. Joseph's College, while that of the A. Math Section was William Wong from Queen's College. Over 40 students attended, and each of them was give a copy of a mock paper prepared by the speakers.

Math Hunt

(3rd, 10th May, 2005)

The first-ever game that turned the school into a playground was proposed by Joseph Tse of F.3E. 30 checkpoints were set up around the school, and marked in a map. Participants had to locate the Checkpoints, solve the problems, and most importantly, race against other teams. The first day was the F. 1 Challenge, and the second was the F.2-3 Challenge.

As a brand new event held in the school, we did not collect any attendance fee and even distributed cash prizes for the two groups of champions, which were from F.1C and F.2E.

The Math Hunt was meaningful to the school, to the Math Society, to the organizing committee and attendants. It shall be continued, and improve into a mature, interesting and high-lighted event, Math Hunt 2005-2006.

Conclusion

The Mathematics Society 2004-2005 has adopted an unprecedented approach to bring Math to students from all walks of life. We have testified that Math is not only interesting as an academic subject, but also practical, even physically. We would continue our mission to serve the students, and hope that St. Joseph's students are not only good at mathematics, but also have a genuine interest Math.