

Mathematics Society



Stepping into its sixth year, Mathematics Society continued to expand. Our goals are to promote mathematics among St. Joseph's and to develop friendship among members. The aims were achieved through a diversity of activities.

The academic year 96-97 was a breakthrough of Mathematics Society. Seventy members were recruited in October. Several functions were first-ever held and the responses were generally satisfactory. As one of their many privileges, our members received three issues of Math Journal. (in November, January & May) This newsletter included club news, interesting games, special articles, tutorials, challeng-

ing tests and many other topics. Both the quality and quantity of this year's Math Journal were improved. We had the largest volume Math Journal published this year. Colour printing was also introduced to add flavour to the products. This dedicated piece of work was given to all members free of charge.

Mathematics is not only a subject in classroom, but also an interesting piece of work in the computer. With the help of Mr. A. Lee, we introduced to our members many maths software in the form of software demonstrations and software workshops. In the workshop, members were given chances to use maths software under the supervision of Mr. A. Lee and our com-

mittees. In addition, a mathematics software library was held every Friday. Various useful maths softwares were available for members of all forms. We would like to thank Mr. A. Lee here for his unfailing assistance and enthusiastic motivation for us.

Apart from the regular tutorial lessons held every Friday lunch time, we also organised three revision tests during the academic year (in November, February & April) for our members. The tests were conducted during tutorial class and the marked paper together with suggested solutions were returned to members after the tests. The aims of tutorials and tests were to help lower form students cope with their maths homework and prepare for exams.

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Mr. S. R. Hsieh
Miss A. Tsoi

Besides, we also presented challenging problems, special articles downloaded from the Internet and many geometry problems in the "Mathematics Corner". Topics included the nature of numbers, (such as recurring decimals and fractions) counting combinations, factorisation, rearranging toothpicks, etc. Interesting problems about geometry were put on the "Visual Thinking Skills Column". The leftmost portion of the board were articles taken from the Internet. These included the use of "zero", the nature of prime numbers, the learning of Mathematics, etc. Many lower form students were attracted by our

exquisitely decorated notice board.

In November, a mathematics lecture for all Josephians was organised. The lecture was given by our teacher adviser, Mr. K. B. Ching. The topic was "Volume of sphere". During the lecture, an interesting proof of the formula for the volume of a sphere was given. Some related concepts, such as infinite series of numbers, limits, were also introduced and audience learned a lot from the lecture. We would like to thank Mr. K. B. Ching for his preparation for this function.

Movies can also help us to learn maths. In November, a video tape about "similarity" was shown in the lecture room. It was different from what we might have learnt in class since many lively examples of similarity were shown. In fact, similarity is related to our daily life and the tape helped us explore it. Of course, the basic concepts of similarity were also mentioned in the tape. Those who came enjoyed very much and earned a comprehensive knowledge of similarity.

As for the Open Day, which was held on 16th March, our society set up a stall in the covered playground. Games about mathematics were available. Besides, players had a chance to demonstrate their skills in rolling balls and memorising numbers. Visi-

tors of different ages tried our game and the responses were really encouraging.

April was the climax for Mathematics Society. On 2nd April, we organised a visit to the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. We visited the book shop, the laboratories, the computer rooms, the campus and various facilities of the HKUST. A lecture about studying in universities was given by a senior professor of the HKUST. The responses from both the committees and members were great. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the staff of the HKUST for their warm welcome and excellent organisation of the activity.

Another highlight of the year was the "Game & Gift". On 24th April, a game in the form of question and answer was organised for all our

members in the lecture room. The questions were about maths and Maths Society. After the game, a lucky draw was held in the presence of our teacher advisers. Twenty-six prizes, which amounted to \$400, were given out. Many participants became very excited during the game; and many enjoyed themselves very much and got a lot of prizes!

We would like to conclude with a sincere word of gratitude to all the teacher advisers,

Mr. K. B. Ching, Mr. S. R. Hsieh and Ms A. Tsoi for their unwavering support throughout the year. Besides, Mr. A. Lee also deserves our heartfelt gratitude for devoting much of his time to help us in every aspect. Moreover, thanks should also go to Mr. A. Chan, and our principal, Rev. Bro. Thomas for their support of our functions. Without their help, the running of Mathematics Society would not be as smooth and successful as it is. ■

