

MATHS!

Mathematics Society

Mathematics Tutorial Class

1. Introduction

The idea of a tutorial class is unlikely new; yet we have taken the initiative to run it for the lower form students in this academic year. The main aim of the Mathematics Society is to advocate Mathematics and flourish the friendship among the Josephians. The day-to-day running of the Mathematics tutorial lessons is to boost Josephians' ability to learn Mathematics. Interest as well as joy is the dynamo of learning; those lessons are not just to teach them over many a great volume of the Mathematical lore by the conventional teaching method — answering questions and giving solutions — but to forward their interests by sharing our experiences in learning Mathematics.

Our report of the tutorial class is now submitted as follows:

2. Details of the tutorial class

2.1 Time schedule of the tutorial lessons

2.1.1 From October to November, a tutorial lesson was held at every lunch time (from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.) for the lower form students as

The following table:

F.1: 1A classroom
F.2: 2A classroom
F.3: 3A classroom, 3B classroom
F.4: inc. those taking part in the 16th H. K. Math. Olympiad

From January to May, small changes were made in the time schedule as suggested by our teacher advisors that the tutorial lessons were held on every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at lunch time from 1:00p.m. to 1:45p.m. Also, the venue of the tutorial class was shifted from the classrooms to the Junior Science Lab., where it was accessible to all F.1 to F.4 students who had interests.

2.2 The students were not required to pay either membership fee or tuition fee.

2.3 Tutors and assistant tutors

2.3.1 Mathematics teachers

We deeply show our obligations to all the Mathematics teachers - including Mr. K.B. Ching (the teacher-in-charge), Mr. A. Leel (the teacher advisor, who gave the materials for the Mathematics Corner downloaded from the Internet), Mr. C. K. Tse, Mr. C. H. Wong, and all other Mathematics teachers as tutors of the tutorial lessons.

Chairman: Richard Lau (6B)

Vice-Chairman: Yan Hang Fai (6B)

Alexander Chan (6B)

Internal Secretary: Andrew Chan (6B)

External Secretary: Chan Wai Chi (6B)

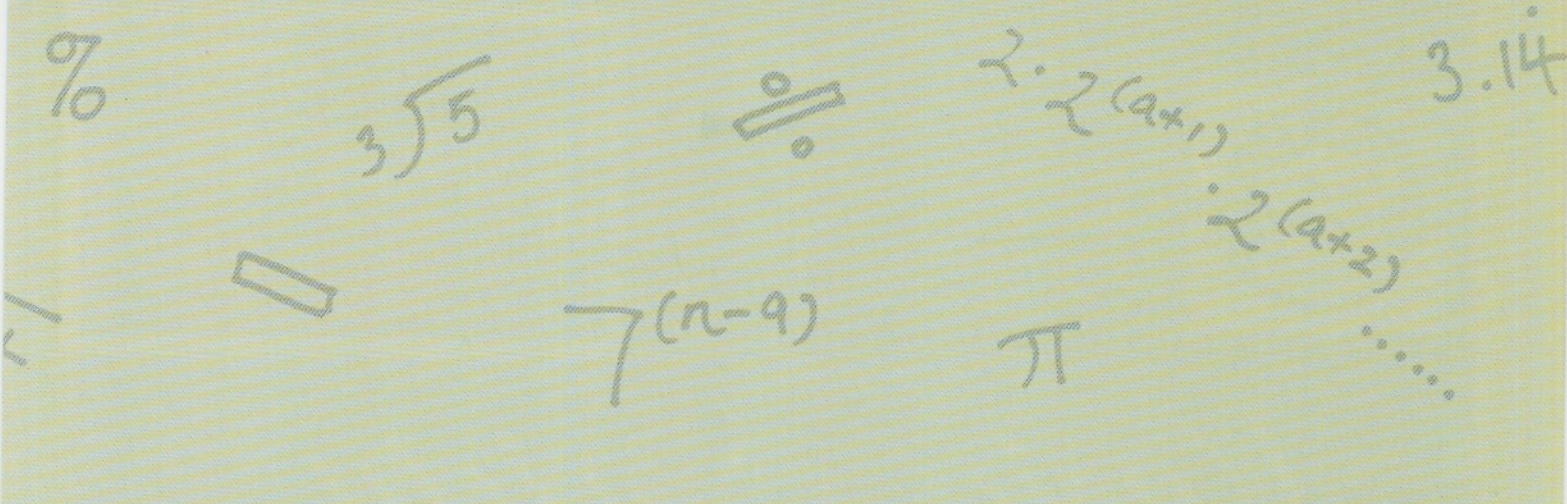
Treasurer: Bernard Lee (6B)

They have devoted their time in encouraging the lower form students to attend the tutorial class, during their normal lessons.

2.3.2 Our committee members

We were a committee of 6 members. There were at least three of us taking turns to be rostered as the assistant tutors in each tutorial lesson. We were responsible for helping the lower form students with their Mathematical problems found in the exercises or textbooks. We also tried in every effort to talk to them about some jokes that we came across in our school life and to recall our experiences, esp. when we were in lower form. This can keep them from getting bored in each tutorial lesson and provide the chances to maintain our friendship.





2.4 Handouts and testing materials

In each lesson, preliminary exercises, and mock tests were photocopied or printed to all attendants. Most of the exercises were provided by Mr. K. B. Ching and Mr. A. Lee. Those worksheets were free of charge. They were usually extracted from some textbooks, reference books and the exam. paper of the previous year. Some M.C. questions were the excerpts from the HKCEE and SAT paper. It was our pleasure to answer any students' questions about the Mathematical problems from the exercises or the textbook.

2.5 Guidelines to the students in solving Mathematical problems

Apart from providing exercises, there was a talk about an interesting topic on simple proof of the Pythagoras' theorem and also some challenging problems - for example evaluating — for them to guess,

to think and even to imagine by their common sense. We gave the clues and some guidelines for them to fix the problems. Then we pointed out why they had a wrong approach to the questions and gave them a correct direction in solving other like problems to broaden their horizons.

2.6 Mathematics Corner

Mathematics Corner is the board in the vicinity of the Junior Science Lab. , where we presented some challenging problems under different topics on polynomial, geometry, finite sum, property of the irrational number (including recurring decimals, and fractions), and the way to find decimal values of . Most of them were extracted from the IQ Mathematical books; while others were downloaded from the Internet or provided by the Educational Department.

3. Findings

At the outset of the tutorial class in October, we prepared a dummy run by urging the students nearby the classroom at the time the class opened; yet only an average of 5 to 6 students attended the class. Then, from November onwards, we promoted the tutorial class by means of the PA system as well as the persistent encouragement of the Mathematics teachers

- some of the weaker students were assigned by the teachers to attend the tutorial class. Hence, the class became a going concern that an average of 10 to 20 students from F.1 to F.3 attended it.

4. Conclusion

This year our task was painstaking; but we got into our stride that the Mathematics tutorial class is swelling throughout the academic year. Now then what we are going to hunt - and even to hound - is the support and encouragement of the Josephians. We would like everyone in this school to be one of the attendants in the expanding tutorial class, which will be extended to other subjects in the coming year. Overall, we have accomplished our target that the increase in the number of the attendants would indicate a bright future for the extension of the tutorial class. Despite the progress of the tutorial class, we would like to express our heartiest gratitude to all the Mathematics teachers for their invaluable support of the gratuitous tutorial lessons. Without their help and encouragement, we could not help thinking that the tutorial class could be as smooth and successful as it was.

