

# Mathematica Centrum

Enriching young minds since 1990

To the Principal of the School

October 30, 2011

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Mathematics Contest Centre prepares some of the top mathematics competitions in North America. Since 1990, more than 900 000 Canadian students have participated in these contests. This year, you may enter your students in seven different contests: **Thales** (grade 3), **Byron–Germain** (grade 4), **Fibonacci** (grade 5), **Pythagoras** (grade 6), **Euler** (grade 7), **Lagrange** (grade 8), and **Newton** (grade 9). We hope that your students will participate this year.

**UNESCO** has declared that learning mathematics through problem solving activities is the most efficient way for students to develop lasting mathematical skills that will prepare them for the challenges of the future. With this in mind, we design contests that will challenge and promote the problem solving skills of all your students. To learn more about our educational mission, please go to [www.mathematicacentrum.ca](http://www.mathematicacentrum.ca) and read our homepage letter. Schools who wish to receive previous contest questionnaires with detailed solutions to help them prepare their students can order them by completing the appropriate section of the registration form.

This year, we will publish a preparatory test for **each** contest. As well, the formats of the **Thales** and **Euler** Contests will be improved: for the grade 3 **Thales** Contest the format will be (45 minutes; 30 questions) and for the grade 7 **Euler** Contest the format will be (75 minutes; 40 questions). The formats for the **Byron-Germain** Contest (grade 4; 45 minutes; 30 questions), the **Fibonacci** Contest (grade 5; 60 minutes; 40 questions), the **Pythagoras** Contest (grade 6; 75 minutes; 50 questions), the **Lagrange** Contest (grade 8; 75 minutes; 40 questions), and the **Newton** Contest (grade 9; 75 minutes; 40 questions) will be unchanged. All contests will be written on **April 18, 2012**. Please contact us if your school is closed on this date. For each contest, the students scoring over the national average will receive certificates of distinction, while all other students will receive certificates of participation. A medal (or medals) will be awarded to the champion(s) of each school. **National** plaques will be awarded to schools ranked in the first, second, and third places in Canada. **Provincial** plaques will be awarded to school provincial champions. Students who rank in the first, second, and third places in **Canada** will receive a medal resembling the **Fields medal** (the medal awarded to the greatest mathematicians in the world) that will have the student's name inscribed on the back. Provincial champions will receive the same medal. Furthermore, each student participating in the Pythagoras, Euler, and Lagrange contests who gets a perfect score will receive a **US\$250** merit scholarship to attend the international MathPath camp (please read **N.B. 2** on reverse side). As well, both **national and provincial** honour rolls for the best students and schools will be published online in June. To register, you must complete the accompanying registration form and return it to the Mathematics Contest Centre before the deadline of **December 23, 2011**.

We hope that these contests will encourage all of your students to further develop their problem resolution skills. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,



M.C. Lepore, eng  
Director, Mathematics Contest Centre

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**N.B. 1** The **2011** preparatory documents are already online. You may download them to show your students how to fill-out a response form correctly. The **2012** preparatory documents will be online in February and like last year, **you will be able to download the detailed solutions of the preparatory test cost-free.**

**N.B. 2 MathPath** is an international summer camp for students 11-14 who love mathematics and show high promise. Students participating in the Pythagoras, Euler, and Lagrange contests who get a perfect score and are interested in attending the camp will receive a **US\$250** scholarship. Students who do not get a perfect score can also apply to the camp. For more information go to Mathpath.org or call Dr. Stephen B. Maurer, professor at Swarthmore College, at (415) 830-3838.

**N.B. 3** All response forms are corrected at the Centre. The **confidential** results of your students, along with certificates and medals, will be mailed to the schools by the end of May. Plaques will be mailed by mid June.

**P.S.** Please photocopy this letter and the registration form and keep them in a safe place so that you can refer to them easily, as they contain a great deal of the information that you will need to consult throughout the year. To obtain the details of each contest and important dates, **please visit our website at [www.mathematicacentrum.ca](http://www.mathematicacentrum.ca)** and click on important dates.

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