

# Mathematica Centrum

Enriching young minds since 1990

To the Principal of the School

October 07, 2020

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Mathematics Contest Centre (MCC) prepares some of the top mathematics Contests in North America. Over the past 32 years, more than 1.5 million students have participated in these contests. 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). It is our hope that your students will participate this year.

**UNESCO** has stated that learning mathematics through problem solving activities is the most efficient way to prepare students for the challenges of the future. With this in mind, we design contests that challenge and promote problem solving skills of all your students. To learn more about our educational mission and commitment to learning, 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 better prepare their students, can order them by completing the appropriate section of the registration form.

Because of the uncertainties caused by Covid-19, we have opted, this year, for online contests. Our new server will be ready soon and it will be reliable and easy to navigate. Whatever the circumstances, you will be able to run the contests (please read **N. B. 3** on reverse side). Furthermore, managing the contests will be easier and less time consuming for you. Everything else about the Contest will be the same (please read **N.B. 1**, **N.B. 2**, and **P.S.** on reverse side). The Thales Contest (grade 3; 45 minutes; 30 questions), 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 Euler Contest (grade 7; 75 minutes; 40 questions), the Lagrange Contest (grade 8; 75 minutes; 40 questions), and the Newton Contest (grade 9; 75 minutes; 40 questions) will all be written on **April 28, 2021**. Please contact the Centre if your school is unable to write any or all of the contests on this day. 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 medals 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. 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 MCC before the deadline of **November 27, 2020**.

We hope that these contests will encourage all 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** Sixteen years of online past Preparatory tests (in all, more than a thousand problems with detailed solutions) can be downloaded cost-free. You can use these problems for Contest preparation for the students that will be participating in the April 28, 2021 Contests (actually, all your students should be working at these problems, because they cover the curriculum taught in Canadian provinces). By solving these problems, they will familiarize themselves with the type of problems that will appear on the April 28, 2021 Contests. At the end of February 2021, you will be able to register (on our new server) the names of the students that will be participating in the April 28 Contests. Furthermore, at the end of March 2021, the 2020 (last year's) Contests will be available cost-free online on our new server. By doing these Contests, your students will be able to thoroughly practice the mechanics of online testing so that they will know exactly what to do on April 28, 2021.

**N.B. 2** Certificates and medals will be mailed to the schools by the end of May or beginning of June. Plaques will be mailed by mid June.

**N.B. 3** It is important that you return the registration form as soon as possible, because the information it contains (particularly your school's e-mail) will permit us to finalise our new system.

**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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