

KATM BULLETIN

Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics

KATM TIDBITS

- ∞ Thanks to everyone who came to the KATM Conference in Hays on October 23. It was a huge success because of you. Hopefully, you gained valuable information to use in your classroom.
- ∞ Become aware of the Common Core Standards by visiting www.corestandards.org. This has the potential to affect your classroom and the standards.
- ∞ We need your opinion. What would you like to see from KATM? Please feel free to email lyoung@fhsu.edu with suggestions!!!
- ∞ Recently we received an article from the KSDE listserv concerning Test Taking Incentives for Performance on State Assessments. What thoughts do you have concerning this topic. Please feel free to [email](#) thoughts, concerns, or suggestions concerning this hot topic.
- ∞ How are you using Technology in your mathematics classroom? Please [share](#) how you integrate any and all technology at any grade level. We will post your ideas in the next KATM bulletin!!!
- ∞ Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a Happy Holiday Season!!! Take some time to rest and get energized for the new year.

Inside this issue:

President's Letter	2
Mathematics for the Elementary Teacher	2
Websites to Try!	2
Resources for the Math Classroom	3
Zone News	3
KFLA Update	4
Officers	4





Jerry Braun
Math Coach/Teacher
USD 489

President's Letter

Brought to you by Jerry Braun

Can you believe it is already December? Where has the first semester of school and 2009 gone? It seems like only yesterday I was writing to welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year. The past months have brought both excitement and stress. But even in these trying financial times there is still much to be thankful for. I am personally thankful to all who helped put on the 2009 KATM Math Conference in Hays this past October. From all indications it was a great success thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped either that day or in the planning stages along the way. I also want to thank all who attended and presented. YOU made the conference a success.

2010 is shaping up to be an interesting and exciting year for Mathematics in Kansas. Work will begin shortly to begin review of our current math standards aligning them on a broader scale with the Common Core standards. The state is looking at an April 2010 deadline for this process. In addition, an instructional piece will be developed highlighting the "Big Ideas" that should be covered at each grade level. Kansas will also be applying for Federal "Race to the Top" funds this coming year. If awarded, this Federal money will bring some much needed funding for education in Kansas. Change is always scary, but I think these are changes in a positive direction for Mathematics Education in Kansas. Look for more information on these topics as they become available from KSDE.

Mathematics for the Elementary Teacher

Brought to you by Angie Kisner



Angie Kisner
Kindergarten teacher
Copeland Elementary

A Lesson in Probability

I made a picture of a turkey and left off the feathers for my first grade class. The bottom of the page had pictures of feathers. They were to color then red, yellow, orange and green. This was where they would make tally marks. Then kids made feathers and colored them red, yellow, orange and green. I told them to make one orange feather, 2 red feathers, 3 yellow feathers and 4 green feathers. They then put the feathers into a cloth bag and picked out a feather. They made tally marks on the corresponding feather at the bottom of the page. They could choose 5 feathers. Then I had them do it again to see if they had the same tally marks. After the activity, they glued the feathers on their turkey.

Websites to Try!

www.ed.gov/mathpanel

Check out this site to find a summary of the final report of the National Math Advisory Panel. It includes the findings and recommendations on what children need to know, a synthesis of the research, which instructional strategies work best, and the impact of teacher knowledge on student learning. It also includes new resources for teachers, as well as information that can be shared with parents.

Resources for the Math Classroom

by Jennifer Weilert

Literacy Strategies for Improving Mathematics Instruction

by Joan M. Kenney

ISBN 141660230-5

This resource explores how mathematics instruction can be made deeper and more stimulating through skill-building in reading and writing. This book describes common ways in which students misinterpret the language of mathematics, and shows teachers what they can do to ensure that their students become fluent in that language. It includes examples of student struggles, provides the research on mathematics literacy, and explains how teachers can use a variety of literacy strategies to help students better understand the language of mathematics. The abundance of research, helpful resources, and student-centered strategies would be beneficial for math teachers at all levels.

Principles and Standards for School Mathematics Navigations Series

Are you looking for a resource to help students develop conceptual understanding and make connections in meaningful ways? This supplemental teaching resource is designed with the teacher in mind. Each book includes an introduction emphasizing the foundations and characteristics of the concepts students are expected to learn. In addition, each chapter begins with a brief overview of the “big ideas” included in the lesson. Each lesson then contributes to the development of those concepts through various student-centered activities. Books range in grade level from Pre-K to Grade 12 and include geometry, measurement, algebra, connections, data analysis and probability, problem solving & reasoning, and number & operations. Each book includes a CD-ROM with excellent articles for teacher background, as well as student blacklines. The *Navigations* books expand upon and illustrate the vision of mathematics instruction outlined in NCTM's *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, which identifies six principles that form the foundation of a quality program of mathematics instruction. If you or your school has any money to invest in math curriculum materials, this would be well worth it! If you or your school doesn't have the money, try applying for a grant to purchase these materials!

Zone News

ZONE 1: Kathy Desaire (kdesaire.usd269@ruraltel.net)

ZONE 2: Deb Nauerth (DEBN@manhattan.k12.ks.us)

Happy holidays from Zone 2! We are hustling and bustling with excitement around here. Our math mentorship group, The Young and the Rest of Us, is in full swing again. We are meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Surveys conducted at these meetings continue to show our early career teachers are needing and wanting support with implementing standards based math practices. So far, we have shared some of the Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies and many math resources, including differentiated instruction. Also, we are happy to announce we will have a new Young and the Rest of Us group starting in Ulysses in January, 2010. The teacher leader for this group will be Dana Bledsoe.

Our Math/Science Partnership (MSP) share fair will be held in February in Manhattan. Participants from grades K-12 are busy implementing their Japanese Lesson Studies and observing lessons, giving feedback to others. If you are interested in receiving more information on results from these action research projects, please contact Melisa Hancock at melisa@ksu.edu.

“A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.”

~ Anonymous ~

ZONE 3: Pat Foster (pfoster@usd341.org)

ZONE 4: Karla Childs (kchilds@pittstate.edu)

ZONE 5: Jennifer Armstrong (jarmstrong@usd259.net)

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KANSAS LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE
News and Notes: News Release
October 28, 2009

Topoka: KPERS issues, Partnership for 21st Century Skills goals, parent involvement reporting requirements and workgroup efforts were the focus of the Kansas Learning First Alliance meeting held at the Shawnee County/Topeka Public Library Oct. 29. Over 25 people from 18 member organizations attended.

Glenn Deck, Executive Director of KPERS, gave an overview of the health of the system that most KLFA members will depend on in their retirement. As he has in numerous other presentations, Deck rebutted the notion KPERS was “bankrupt,” as one recently released report noted. He did agree the current rate on employer contributions was inadequate over the long haul and would need to be addressed. He reiterated the fact that no current benefits were in jeopardy. It was also noted State General Fund dollars allotted to KPERS essentially came out of the same pool of money districts draw from. As a result, as more money is necessarily funneled to improve KPERS stability, less money is likely to be available for districts as they try to improve student achievement results and provide for more effective professional development.

In the only action item of the day, members voted to approve the National Action Agenda for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. More information about the agenda can be found at:

www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=768&Itemid=63.

Chair Sue Givens reported to the group additional data regarding parental involvement in KLFA projects will need to be collected as part of the annual reporting documents required by the Kansas Parent Information Center grant used to fund much of KLFA’s work. The grant infuses \$20,000 over five years into the Kansas Learning First Alliance Education Foundation, KLFA’s fiscal partner. More detailed data from the Watch and Talk parties, held in conjunction with the presentation of *Reading, Writing, and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids* on Kansas Public Television stations, will need to be collected to satisfy program evaluation requirements.

The three work groups KLFA uses met for much of the meeting. The three groups work towards improving student achievement; strengthening the professional development of educators; and engaging the public in school improvement and student achievement efforts. To focus their work, three general goals offer guidance. They are:

- KLFA will broadly disseminate its work to influence practitioners.
- KLFA will increase its visibility among policy makers.
- KLFA will strengthen and increase its organizational capacity.

KLFA’s next meeting is Jan. 7, 2010, when it will celebrate its 11th anniversary. It is the oldest of the 12 Learning First state affiliates in existence.

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