

Grade Five Math Olympiad Team Holds *Problem-Solving Workshops*

Math Olympiad Team members can be found buzzing into the fifth grade wing during recess/lunch for *Problem Solving Munches!* The voluntary workshops offer students the opportunity to learn, apply, and practice problem-solving strategies under the coaching of Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Lecko, fifth grade teachers. As students collaborate to solve math problems in small and whole group settings, it is pure brainpower, as Math Olympiad rules do not allow calculators, rulers, or other math manipulatives.

During this school year all fifth grade students took a qualifying test, and forty-nine fifth grade students were invited to participate in Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools (MOEMS). MOEMS is a nonprofit public foundation, which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem solving activities that develop a child's ability to reason, to be logical, to be resourceful, and occasionally to be ingenious! Last year approximately 150,000 students worldwide representing all fifty states and twenty-five other countries were enrolled in this mathematical enrichment activity.

The Olympiad goals for students are:

- *To stimulate enthusiasm and a love for Mathematics*
- * To introduce important Mathematical concepts*
- * To teach major strategies for problem solving*
- * To develop Mathematical flexibility in solving problems*
- * To strengthen Mathematical intuition*
- * To foster Mathematical creativity and ingenuity*
- * To provide for the satisfaction, joy, and thrill of meeting challenges*

Copies of monthly contests (through March) and problem solving packets are available to all students through their fifth grade teachers. All fifth grade teachers are planning to use the contest problems for instruction, thus every fifth grade student will experience solving the Olympiad problems. In addition, several problem-solving resources are available for purchase from MOEMS (moems.org).

Learning how to solve a problem and to understand its underlying mathematical concepts are the most important goals of mathematical education. Math Olympiads is fun and rewarding! Congratulations and the best to each 2007- 2008 Math Olympian!

GOALS