

Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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President's Message

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as MCATA president this term. I have learned a lot and have really enjoyed my time. I leave the role of president in the capable hands of David Martin, starting in October. His passion and progressive mindset are inspiring, and I look forward to his leadership. We are excited to support the math and science teachers of Alberta at our joint conference in October—I can't wait to hear Jo Boaler's messages of equity and mindset.

We continue to work on finding ways to support math teachers across our province. Please contact us with ideas, thoughts and questions. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. I hope to see many of you at the conference. Have a wonderful start of the school year!

Alicia Burdess

From the Editor's Laptop

Thank goodness! This week I found myself, probably like many of you, snapping out of the summer-is-over blues and starting the "Let's-get-pumped-for-school" mode. The turning point is definitely from the two-day summer workshop Design the Shift, an iterative professional learning series for educators with an emphasis on design-thinking mindsets. What struck me most is empathy, one of the elements in design thinking. To me, empathy is crucial in math classrooms! When teachers, as designers, develop the best possible understandings, experiences, insights and observations of our students, it makes much more sense to build the rest of our design project.

Stacey Wu

Contribute to *delta-K*

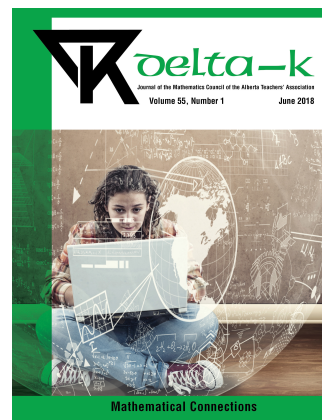
Do you have a practical teaching idea or thoughts about mathematics education that you could share with other mathematics teachers? The Mathematics Council journal, *delta-K*, is looking for teacher submissions.

Writing an article for *delta-K* is something you could include in your yearly professional growth plan. At the same time, you would be contributing to the profession by sharing with others.

Please consider submitting a lesson plan, an activity, a book review, a rich task or a research paper, or simply sharing something that worked in your classroom so that other math teachers can try it. Our collaboration can enrich all our students' math experiences.

Send your submission to lboschman@mhc.ab.ca. See your idea in print!

Lorelei Boschman



Mathematical Connections

Save the Date! Fall 2018 Symposium

Keep **October 18** open for the preconference symposium! Lucio Gelmini (Dr Boom) will showcase his travelling science show in the morning and Nanotech Tour in the afternoon!

May 2018 Executive Meeting Summary

Agenda items included a draft letter regarding the math teacher bursary and the inequity for rural communities, consideration of a joint position paper, representatives of the MCATA executive on the Association Curriculum Circle, and minor housekeeping to some of the MCATA documents.

There were also a debrief of the May 2018 Symposium, plans for future symposia and conferences, and an update on the joint math/science conference in October. For the 2018–20 term, membership director is Daryl Chichak, special projects director is David Martin and facilities director is Alicia Burdess. A number of members of the MCATA executive attended various ATA meetings and events, including PDAC, ARA and Summer Conference. A few members who attended the meeting shared information about the expert curriculum working groups. The next executive meeting was scheduled for September 8.

Teachers of Mathematics in the Edmonton Region (TERM)

Two meeting dates have been set for the 2018/19 school year: November 19 and April 8. The meetings will be held at Paul Kane High School, in St Albert, at 5 PM. Please contact Donna Chanasyk at donnajc@telus.net for more information.

PEC Report

Throughout the summer, my Twitter feed and newspapers continued to be dominated by curriculum.

In Ontario, Doug Ford cancelled the updated health curriculum and education for reconciliation. A minister said that teachers could discuss sex ed issues not covered (consent, LGBTQ, media) privately with students. Don't do that!

In Alberta, the UCP declared that it will put the new curriculum through the shredder. We heard criticisms of social engineering and the "NDP curriculum." Then there's the "back to basics" mathematics voices who believe that memorizing multiplication tables will adequately prepare our students for the future.

We need to remember that curriculum development is being done by teachers—teachers who are experts in their fields. In many subjects, this work is long overdue. The Alberta Teachers' Association is the voice of our profession, and we must continue to support and protect our members as they continue to do this vital work. Curriculum development should not be used to score political points, but rather be done in a thoughtful, meaningful manner by professionals, in the best interests of our students.

*Katherine Pritchard
District Representative SW*

MCATA Awards and Grants

MCATA Grants

Grants of up to \$500 are available to teachers who organize professional development initiatives that support current teaching or learning practices, as well as priorities for PD outlined by Alberta Education, MCATA, the NCTM, the ATA or local school districts. For more information and an application form, go to <http://matteachers.ab.ca/mcata-grants.html>. The deadlines for application are **May 1** and **December 1** of each year.

Dr Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award

The Dr Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award is presented to a third- or fourth-year education student studying in Alberta who promotes mathematics education. For more information and an application form, go to <http://matteachers.ab.ca/dr-arthur-jorgensen-chair-award.html>. The deadline for applications is **April 30** of each year.

Alberta Mathematics Educator Award

The Alberta Mathematics Educator Award is presented to a teacher who has made exceptional contributions to mathematics and has demonstrated leadership at the school, district, provincial or national level. For more information and a nomination form, go to <http://matteachers.ab.ca/alberta-mathematics-educator-award.html>.

The deadline for nominations is **August 1** of each year.

Contact Carmen at carmenbt@telus.net for more information, or visit <http://matteachers.ab.ca/mcata-grants.html> for the application process.

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For a complete listing of the Mathematics Council executive, please visit www.matteachers.ab.ca.

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The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) requires consent to publish personal information about an individual. *Personal information* is defined as anything that identifies an individual in the context of the collection: for example, a photograph and/or captions, an audio or video file, artwork.

Some schools obtain blanket consent under FOIP, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. However, PIPA and FOIP are *not* interchangeable. They fulfill different legislative goals. PIPA is the private sector act that governs the Association's collection, use and disclosure of personal information.

If you can use the image or information to identify a person in context (for example, a specific school, or a specific event), then it's personal information and you need consent to collect, use or disclose (publish) it.

Minors cannot provide consent and must have a parent or guardian sign a consent form. Consent forms must be provided to the Document Production editorial staff at Barnett House together with the personal information to be published.

Refer all questions regarding the ATA's collection, use and disclosure of personal information to the ATA privacy officer.

Notify the ATA privacy officer immediately of *any* incident that involves the loss of or unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information, by calling Barnett House at 780-447-9400 or 1-800-232-7208.

Maggie Shane, the ATA's privacy officer, is your resource for privacy compliance support.

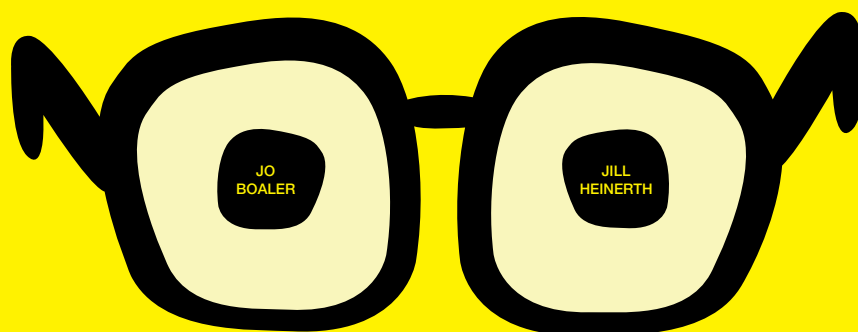
780-447-9429 (direct)

780-699-9311 (cell, available any time)

2018 Geeks Unite 2.0 Math and Science Joint Conference

Come join the mathematics and science councils of the ATA in celebrating their second joint conference—**Geeks Unite 2.0 Math and Science Joint Conference**, on **October 19–20, 2018**, at Delta/Radisson Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta. Jo Boaler and Jill Heinerth will be the keynote speakers, followed by panel discussion on “Education in the Era of Fake News.” Look for more information at <https://event-wizard.com/GeeksUniteMathScience2/0/welcome/>.

October 18–20, 2018



WORLDS WILL COLLIDE

Joint conference of the **Mathematics Council**
and the **ATA Science Council**

FEATURING JO BOALER, PROFESSOR OF
MATHEMATICS EDUCATION, AUTHOR OF
MATHEMATICAL MINDSETS



mathteachers.ab.ca

FEATURING JILL HEINERTH,
EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE, THE ROYAL
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



sc.teachers.ab.ca

Fine print: we anticipate that this conference will sell out. Register early to avoid disappointment. Registration links will be on both councils' websites.

REGISTER AT bit.ly/GeeksUnite2

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