

Primary Schools Mathematics Programme for Gifted Students

A Ceremony for the completion of the Gifted Programme

After completing his first free local gifted mathematics programme, Wong Yee Shing, a student from Ma On Shan St. Joseph's Primary School, says *"The course is informative and the activities are very interesting. I am more interested in maths than before."*

The Primary School Mathematics Programme was devised in 2008 as a joint programme between the **Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE)** and the **Hong Kong Association for Science and Mathematics Education (HKASME)**. After a number of pilot runs, the programme is now being rolled out in stages across all the Regional Educational Districts of the Territory.

The ceremony for the first gifted programme on primary school math of the Shatin District was held on 24 April 2010 at **Lock Tao Secondary School**. Thirty Three P3 to P6 students who have been nominated by their school Principals have participated in the gifted programme and completed the basic, intermediate and advanced courses. The programme covers mathematical elements such as number sense, graphics and space, cryptography and geometry. Through games and activities, the course also enhances the training in students' thinking skills and guides them into deeper mathematical thinking.

After finishing the advanced course, student Tang Kin Kwong hopes that the programme can continue: *"The programme provides me with a lot of new math knowledge which is more advanced than that I learn in school. My course mates are also very interested in math so we discussed and solved problems together and our math ability has increased a lot."*

Mr. Wan, the Development Director of Lock Tao School and convener for HKASME (Primary School Math) believes that gifted programmes on math can promote math education as well as the expertise of school teachers. The involvement of our math teachers in course design, teaching and review immensely helps them develop math education based on inquiry learning, logical reasoning and problem solving.

The Executive Director of the HKAGE, Dr Stephen Tommis says *"we are grateful to the HKASME in facilitating these additional mathematical opportunities for those young students who have a particular aptitude for mathematics. It is clear from the experiences of these young people that they really appreciate the opportunity to come together with fellow able mathematicians to share their learning experience."*

Programme Overview

Basic Level

1. Number sequence (enhancement of number sense and algebra concept)
2. LEGO building and Rubik's Snake (enhancement of graphics and space sense)

Intermediate Level

1. Cryptography (the basics of cryptography)
2. Package of pingpong balls (to explore the concept of optimization through packing pingpong balls with least cardboard)

Advanced Level

1. Geometry, compass and straightedge constructions (enhancement of the ability of straightedge constructions)
2. Discussion and design of the centre point of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge
(exploration and learning of the centre point of a triangle through real-life examples)

Programme Dates

Easter Holiday, April 2009	Basic Course
Christmas Holiday, December 2009	Basic & Intermediate Courses
Easter Holiday, April 2010	Intermediate & Advanced Courses

Numbers of Students

Students who have completed the basic and intermediate courses : 48

Students who have completed the basic, intermediate and advanced courses : 33

23 April 2010