

Will This Be the Year...?

Welcome back to all the promise and excitement that a new year of teaching brings, whether this is your first or thirty-first year in the classroom. Once again you are surrounded by faces—both familiar and new—of students and colleagues alike. Already you may be reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, or you yourself may be the unfamiliar face in the crowd. As you sit down and establish goals for the new academic year, what will your resolutions be? What challenges and obstacles await you? How will you balance the demands of the profession with your own professional growth and personal enjoyment?

Be certain that the *Mathematics Teacher* is here to support your instructional and professional development. Many familiar and popular departments are sure to include articles, problems, and activities to support and enhance your teaching. “Activities,” “Calendar,” “Connecting Research to Teaching,” “Mathematical Lens,” “Media Clips,” and “Technology Tips” are ready to help spark lessons and draw your students’ interest. “Delving Deeper” can be used to enhance your own mathematical knowledge. Sharing an article with a new or returning colleague is an excellent way to promote collaboration and foster communication among fellow teachers that is so rewarding. Keep

an eye out for articles with tags such as “Teaching with Technology,” “Discuss with Colleagues,” and “Sharing Teaching Ideas” to discuss within your department. November’s focus issue on diversity will offer new insights on how to manage the varied needs of your students.

The *Mathematics Teacher* is responsive to the changing needs of teachers and teacher educators. To that end, last year we implemented an August issue in order to provide you with timely and immediate resources and instructional support. Recognizing the implications of state, provincial, and federal testing, as well as curricular changes to mathematics instruction, NCTM’s focus of the year is assessment. Look for articles on this topic, which will be highlighted in the table of contents each month by the special “focus” icon. A host of important topics demand our efforts and attention. The *Mathematics Teacher* will make calls for manuscripts throughout the year that include preparing new career teachers, the use of questioning, teaching special needs students, and mathematical discourse, as well as a revised teacher education call. A complete list of current calls can be found at my.nctm.org/eresources/mt/calls_mt.asp.

Each new school year is a new beginning. What changes do you plan in your instruction, and what changes are planned for you? The *Mathematics Teacher* is a valuable resource for you as you prepare for these changes. Whether you are planning to embrace a new teaching method, use or develop a new assessment technique, implement journal writing, or use cooperative groups, the *Mathematics Teacher* can be of assistance. The search capabilities of NCTM online can help you find a wealth of articles, activities, and teaching ideas to make your initiative both engaging and successful.

We would like the opportunity to recognize your talent and share your ideas with our readership. Why not make a resolution this year to share in some way with the *Mathematics Teacher*? This sharing may be as simple as submitting your favorite problems for the calendar, writing a Reader Reflection, submitting to a department, responding to a call, or writing a manuscript on a topic of your own choosing. Will this be the year that your name appears in the *Mathematics Teacher*? ∞



The Editorial Panel of the *Mathematics Teacher*: front row, from left, Louis Lim, Ruth Casey, Judith Covington; second row, Margaret Coffey, Elizabeth George Bremigan, Judith Kysh; third row, J. Kevin Colligan, Paul Vicinus, Tony Thompson