

Preface

SINCE THE INAUGURAL ISSUE of *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* appeared in April 1994, and continuing to the present, Cartoon Corner has been one of the most-read and most-used features of the journal.

Cartoon Corner was created as a resource that teachers could use to engage middle-grades students in mathematical thinking in new and challenging ways. Teachers who use Cartoon Corner in their classes report that the problems and activities connect to important concepts across the mathematics curriculum and that they enhance students' awareness of and appreciation for the many ways in which mathematics permeates daily life. Teachers repeatedly describe their students' interest in and excitement over the problems generated from the cartoons, and they tell of the students' disappointment when the class period ends all too soon.

Throughout the years, a series of creative mathematics educators have edited Cartoon Corner and upheld and expanded its goals and the quality of its contents. Under the editorship of Andy Reeves and Mary Lou Beasley, classroom teachers from across the country were recruited to field-test the cartoons before publication, and those volunteers have provided valuable feedback in refining and extending the activities that appear in the journal. Among their adaptations was the current format of presenting the cartoons and related problems in a layout that can easily be photocopied for classroom use.

A collection of cartoons from the early issues of *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* appeared as a book in 2009, and it has been widely used by teachers. Requests for additional Cartoon Corner materials have led to this second volume of humor-based mathematics. In presenting these materials, we are deeply indebted to the editors, readers, classroom teachers, and middle school students who developed, tested, and provided feedback leading to these resources, as well as to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics editorial and production staff, without whom these publications would not be possible.

Peggy House, Editor