



Math League News

■ **Use the Internet to View Scores or Send Comments** to comments@mathleague.com. At www.mathleague.com, you can view scores *before they arrive in the mail!*

■ **Contest Registration and Books of Past Contests** Register for next year by mail or on the Web right now! Renew now so you don't forget later! *You may ask us to bill you this Fall.* We sponsor an *Algebra Course 1 Contest* and contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Use the enclosed form to register for contests or to **order books of past contests.**

■ **2008-2009 Contest Dates** Here's the good news: our Internet Score Report Center allows us to move contest dates forward. We can schedule the 6 contests to be held 4 weeks apart (mostly), ending in March. Next year's contest (and alternate) dates, all Tuesdays, are: Oct. 21 (14), Nov. 18 (11), Dec. 16 (9), Jan. 13 (6), Feb. 24 (17), and Mar. 24 (17). *Do you have a testing or other conflict?* Right now is a good time to put the alternate date on your calendar!

■ **End-of-Year Awards and Certificates** Symbols identify winners (we shipped plaques to the advisor). Errors? Write to: *Math Plaques, P.O. Box 17, Tenafly, NJ 07670-0017.* Identify the award, the contest level, your name, and the school's name and address. The envelope for Contest #5 contained Certificates of Merit for the highest scoring student overall, and on each grade, for the year. Do you need extra certificates for ties? If so, send a **self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold certificates (you need to use * TRIPLE * postage)** to: *Certificates, P.O. Box 17, Tenafly, NJ 07670-0017.* (Please allow 1 week.)

■ **Handing In Contests Early** One teacher had a student who figured out the right answer to a question after he had handed it in early. It's best to not allow students to hand in their papers early unless they plan to leave the room right away. If not, encourage them to keep their papers till all papers are collected. Your student learned a good lesson: in life, the first one to the finish line does not always win.

■ **Comments About The Contests** Edward DeFrancia said "Another fun year of contests—much appreciated!" Susan Cantay said that "This was the easiest contest of the year, in my opinion, yet it was interesting and had some nice twists." Andreas Evriviades wrote "What a pleasure it is for me and my students to be exposed to such clever and delightful problems once a month! Thank you for all you are doing to promote mathematics." Timothy Ryan wrote "Thank you for another year of good contests." Jason Bershatsky said "Thanks for providing another great year of math competitions!" John Saurine wrote "Thanks for your help and kindness this year." Albert Roos said "Our students enjoy this competition and are looking forward to next year." Timothy Baumgartner said "Thanks for another great year of challenging problems! I like the accelerated dates made possible by the online scoring system. I wish the conflict with the

AIME could have been avoided." Denny Cook's "kids had the best time with this last contest. They thought it contained problems they felt very confident about. They must have felt good, as it was their best team score of the year. We had more 5s and 6s than on any previous test." Jack Siderer thinks "this year was a real improvement. I liked that the time was consistently 30 minutes (*it's never been anything other than 30 minutes*) and that some of the questions were more user friendly." Dr. Carl Clark said "Thanks for another fantastic season. The only suggestion I can think of for improvement is to make the schools' postings available in real time without waiting several weeks for the snail mail version. Again, a great job and thank you." (*We're trying to work on revisions of our reporting capabilities.*) Brother Gary Eck wrote that "We enjoyed the questions. There was a great range of methods and concepts. Thanks for another year of challenging contests!" Jeff Marsh said "Thanks for another great year. The kids were excited to post one of their best cumulative scores in the past decade!" Mark Luce said "Thank you very much for these enjoyable and enlightening contests. We will participate next year as well." Stephanie Thompson found our score reporting system "very user friendly with clear instructions and a fast way to input the scores—efficient and effective!" Keith Calkins said "Grading really slows when wrong answers to some questions are correct answers elsewhere: 89 and 2 were popular answers for question 4. Others have gushed eloquent on how fast scoring is now. However, I really wish the check boxes were bigger, maybe even with numbers inside, so one doesn't need to spend so much time aiming for the tiny boxes." (*None of the advisors in their 20s ever have that trouble!*)

■ **Problem 6-2: Appeal (Denied)** An appeal for " $x = 2$ " was denied. The question asked how many solutions existed, not for the value of one of the two solutions.

■ **Problem 6-6: Comments** Susan Holloway said "I love this question! When the test was over, I had my students pair up, use their answer, and play the game. Interesting conversation followed." Ross Arseneau said "This is the perfect question to finish the year, especially with its proximity to St. Patrick's Day. Does anyone else hear *The Bricklayer's Song* playing in the background?" (*A funny song!*) Keith Calkins said "this question is about the game of Nim!"

Statistics / Contest #6

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

6-1	89%	6-4	42%
6-2	87%	6-5	55%
6-3	60%	6-6	14%