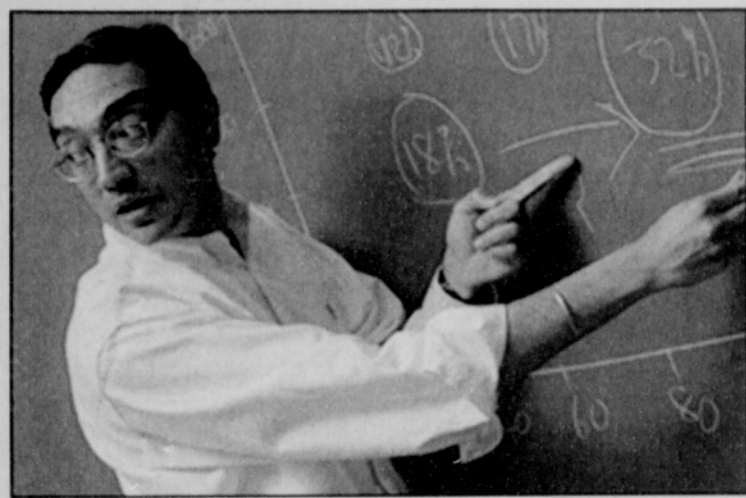


## Math as Mind Power

A career path for math teachers



Math takes reasoning and creativity, skills that students learn by sharing ideas.

With a new five-year, \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Oregon State University researchers are working with classroom teachers, school administrators and college students in education to improve mathematical discourse in the classroom.

It just adds up – math education is about more than learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide, the educators say. It takes reasoning and creativity, skills that students learn by sharing ideas. In fact, it takes what researchers call developing “mathematical habits of mind.”

Collaborators include researchers at Portland State University, the nonprofit Teachers Development Group in West Linn, the Woodburn School District and RMC Research Corp. Through a series of summer institutes and school-year workshops, they hope to create a cadre of math education leaders in school districts across the state.

The new grant supports participation by about 100 teachers from 50 schools in 10 Oregon school districts, from kindergarten through high school. These teachers are taking part in summer institutes and online courses during the school year, and they receive site-visit support over the five years of the

grant.

Another 80 teachers are supported through additional funding from the Oregon Department of Education and the participating school districts.

The project focuses on all content areas of math, says Karen Higgins, director of teacher education in the OSU College of Education.

“Writing and talking about math increases conceptual understanding,” she said. “The challenge for classroom teachers is to find worthwhile tasks that engage students in teamwork, debate and discussion.”

Such tasks include tests of reasoning ability. One example: there are four hats in a checking room. Four men receive their hats at random. What is the probability that exactly three of them will receive the correct hat? And another: there are only two consecutive prime numbers between 0 and 1,000 that differ from each other by 18. Their sum is 1064. What are they?

How students approach their solutions contributes to their mathematical habits of mind. And ultimately, says Tom Dick, OSU mathematics professor and project leader, it’s about raising student achievement.

## Volunteers Needed to Pack Food Boxes

The Sunshine Division of the Portland Police Bureau is gearing for its holiday giving activities, and is asking the public to participate.

Each December, volunteers converge on its warehouse in north Portland for two nights of packing more than 3,000 boxes with food.

“What’s so great about these nights is that in a short duration, all these boxes are stuffed with food,” said Sgt. Wayne Kuechler, head of the organization. “It’s so intense. And at the end of the evening, when you look over all the boxes, you have this real sense of accomplishment.”

The division is looking for 75 vol-



unteers on Monday, Dec. 12, and on Wednesday, Dec. 14, to staff the assembly lines used to stuff the boxes. More volunteers and their vehicles will be needed Saturday morning, Dec. 17, to distribute the 40-pound boxes to homes and to the Police Bureau’s Northeast, Southeast and East precincts.

To volunteer, call the Sunshine Division at 503-823-2119.

Portland Police Bureau Sgt. Wayne Kuechler helps sort the boxes of emergency food and clothing going to area residents for the holidays.

### Dear Deanna!

I want to be free from a relationship that is holding me down. I married my husband because I thought he would stay motivated and we would do great things together. I’ve watched him go from a dynamic executive to a couch potato. All of the dreams and goals we had have gone down the drain and I still want the fantasy we dreamed of. Should I leave him and is there anything I can do to get my old husband back? --Unhappy Wife.; Baltimore, Md.

### Dear Unhappy:

You married your husband for material comfort instead of eternal companionship. Have a discussion to see how you can support and moti-

## Ask Deanna!

Real People,  
Real Advice



An advice column known for reality based subjects!

vate him. He can’t be the man you want but he can be the man you need. People, places and things change and you have too but your husband loves you enough to deal with it. You need to leave fantasyland and determine what’s making you unhappy, address it and keep it moving.

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### Dear Deanna!

I’m saved in prison and have a question. Some of the inmates are telling me that because I’m not in a church that my faith doesn’t count and I’m wasting my time. I was raised in the church but as you can see from my location, I strayed away from the Bible. Is it true I can still be saved and Godly in prison? -- Anonymous Inmate; Raleigh, N.C. Central Prison

### Dear Anonymous:

As long as you accept the Lord as your Savior and believe He sent

his Son to die for your sins, your soul is saved. You can be saved in a cardboard box, a closet or the middle of a desert. There are other elements such as faith, works, obedience and tithing that go along with this commitment to make you whole.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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