

Ontario Fathom Newsletter #3 June 2003

Here we are at the end of the school year! What an incredible journey it has been. The MDM4U teachers and students are flying with Fathom and the course. Elementary administrators and teachers are being trained en masse on effective uses of data with a variety of tools including Fathom! In this issue, we have some special attachments that you will find very interesting. We have included some resources teachers have kindly agreed to share with you all.

Fathom Summer 2003 Workshops

Registration information is available at www.vlearning.ca

Toronto August 6-7, 2003
Ottawa August 11-12, 2003

These hands-on workshops will be geared to middle and high school teachers of mathematics. Resources and activities will range from grades 7 to 12.

Participants will come away from these two-day workshops with a wealth of hands-on experiences, resources and ideas that they can put to immediate and powerful use in their classrooms and boards. These workshops will actively engage participants in how to use Fathom and how students better learn with Fathom.

MDM4U teachers will be particularly interested in the 26 exemplary student projects from the recent Statistics Canada Data Fair that will be shared on the workshop CD (see brief description below).

Each participant will receive:

- The new Fifty Fathoms Resource book or the Data in Depth Resource book
- Workshop CD loaded with incredible resources
- A thick and rich handout package

Maximum of 24 participants per session. For more information call 613-266-3417

First Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair

On June 4th, Statistics Canada hosted a very successful Data Fair. Twenty-six local MDM4U projects were displayed by students and teachers at Statistics Canada in Ottawa. Attached are samples of two student project PowerPoints as well as a list of all the 26 projects. A CD of all the student projects was produced and will be shared at the upcoming Summer Fathom Workshops. Joel Yan was instrumental in making the Data Fair a reality. Statistics Canada staff were extremely impressed at the quality of not just the student work, but their ability to dialogue about their work:

"These students had completed ambitious projects and were well-prepared to discuss them. I hope that some of them will have future careers right here in Statistics Canada"
Statistics Canada staff



Stay tuned for a more detailed article in the fall OAME Gazette.

Teacher Sharing Corner

Patti Walsh from St. John's-Kilmarnock School writes:

Tracey and I ran this culminating technology exam for 5% of the course mark in our MDM4U course. We thought others might be interested in seeing it to adapt/borrow/brainstorm from. The question paper itself is attached as "final exam for MDM4U", the others are solution sets for each task in various technology platforms. Enjoy!

Attached is a zipped file containing Patti's resources. Thank you to Patti for sharing this with us.

Please email resources, stories, samples of student work, ... you wish to be shared to tom@vlearning.ca and we will gladly include them in future newsletters.

Tinkerplots



Check out the Statistics Education Research Group (SERG) website at:

<http://www.umass.edu/srri/serg/projects/tp/tpmain.html>

Tinkerplots is data analysis software UMass is currently designing for the middle school as an NSF funded project. Students graph data by progressively organizing individual cases on the screen: they drag cases into separate groups, order and stack them.

We have been piloting Tinkerplots in grade 4, 5 and 6 classes in the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board. The impact Tinkerplots has had on student learning and teacher practice has been profound. We videotaped students interacting in pairs on the computer. The results of this pilot will be shared at a Tinkerplots Summit in Toronto in late September. Cliff Konold, the man behind Tinkerplots, will be at the Summit. The September issue of this newsletter will have more details. Details will also be posted online at www.vlearning.ca





Early Reading and Math Strategy Data Training

Over 300 board teams for early reading and early math from across Ontario are being trained for one day on effective uses of data using a variety of tools including Fathom. Twenty-eight exceptional facilitators are leading the training sessions. The board teams will train 3600 primary lead math teachers, lead reading teachers and elementary administrators.

Ministry Curriculum Update Fathom Article

Attached is an article about Fathom that appeared in the most recent Ministry of Education Curriculum Update Newsletter.

Things to look forward to in the September Issue of the Ontario Fathom Newsletter

-  *Tinkerplots Summit*
-  *Census at Schools Statistics Canada Project*
-  *New Statistics Canada Data Sets*
-  *2003-2004 Statistics Canada Data Fair*

Have a great summer!

Tom Steinke