

Ontario Fathom Newsletter #4

Fall 2003

In this issue, we have:

- Update from the Fathom Summer 2003 Workshops
- Update from the Ontario Tinkerplots Summit
- Information on the Second Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair
- Information on the newly-launched Census at School project

Fathom Summer 2003 Workshops

Two, two-day workshops were held this summer in Ottawa and Newmarket. The 40 participants along with the workshop leaders, Gord Cooke and Tom Steinke, explored hands-on resources and activities ranging from grades 7 to 12. All the participants received a CD with 26 exemplary MDM4U student projects from the First Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair. Each participant also received either the new Fifty Fathoms Resource book or the Data in Depth Resource book. Both these books are authored by Tim Erickson and are available from Spectrum Educational.



Ottawa Fathom Workshop participants deeply engaged in a collaborative activity. An hour after the workshop finished, the blackout struck!



Newmarket Fathom Workshop participants in the workshop room at Spectrum Educational. Note the Apple iBooks, kindly loaned by Apple Canada. Participants braved the workshop just as power was beginning to return.

Second Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair

This is an event you don't want to miss if you are teaching, will be teaching or are interested in the MDM4U course. In the Spring 2003 Fathom Newsletter, we shared the story of the First Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair. This event brought 26 students, 10 teachers, from 10 schools and 3 school boards together to share exemplary MDM4U student projects at Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada staff were incredible hosts and actively engaged the students in rich conversations around their MDM4U projects.

The 26 MDM4U student project PowerPoints were collected and burned onto CD's that have been shared at the Data Fair with participating teachers. These formed an invaluable tool for those teachers to share sample projects with their MDM4U students in September. These sample projects could be critiqued by students to give them learning experiences in characteristics of exemplary projects as well as developing a constructive, critical perspective towards the projects of their peers.

Attached to the email containing this Newsletter is a Flyer for the Second Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair. It is our hope that teachers from across Ontario will come with one or two students who will join us in celebrating the exceptional work of the participating students and teachers. School boards and OAME Chapters might consider supporting sending a teacher and student(s) to participate in the data fair. Attending teachers can bring back a CD with all the participating student MDM4U projects as well as supports for setting up a Data Fair locally.

Date: February 24, 2003
Location: Statistics Canada, Ottawa

PD sessions will also be held for teachers and students at the Data Fair.

Ontario Tinkerplots Summit Update



Joel Yan from Statistics Canada, Joel Gingold from Key Curriculum Press and Mary Kielo from Peel DSB at the Ontario Tinkerplots Summit.

September 29th and 30th saw 30 educators from across Ontario gather at Spectrum Educational in Newmarket for the two-day Ontario Tinkerplots Summit. In attendance were an incredibly rich cross-section of the Ontario mathematics education community including Faculties of Education, publishers, authors, classroom teachers (OAME), and consultants (OMCA). Cliff Konold, the man behind Tinkerplots, was there to share the Tinkerplots story from the UMass. Don Burke, a grade 6 teacher from Ottawa who piloted Tinkerplots last year, shared his experiences and activities with the group. The Summit was sponsored by Key Curriculum Press, Spectrum Educational, UMass and Apple Canada.



Stewart Craven from Toronto DSB and OAME President with Alison Gibbs from University of Toronto. Is that a PC Stewart is using?

As a result of the Summit, several new pilot sites will be exploring the potential of Tinkerplots to support student learning:

- Kathy Kubota-Zrivnij from Toronto Catholic DSB
- Stewart Craven from Toronto DSB
- Bev Farahani from Limestone DSB
- Mary Kielo et al from Peel DSB
- Judy Dussiaume from Rainbow DSB (administrator use)

Expect to hear lots more about Tinkerplots in the months and years ahead in Ontario!

For information on Tinkerplots, check out the Statistics Education Research Group (SERG) website at:

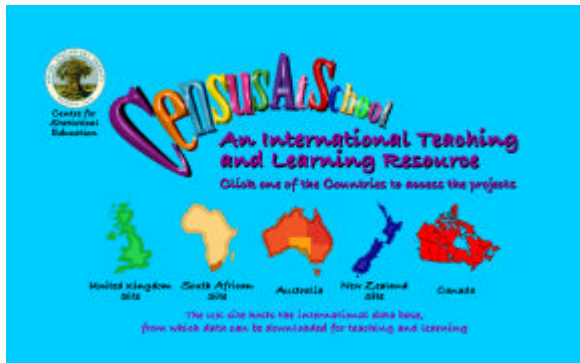
<http://www.umass.edu/srri/serg/projects/tp/tpmain.html>

If anyone else is interested in piloting Tinkerplots in their class, school or board, contact Tom Steinke at tom@vlearning.ca



Dinner Monday evening was sponsored by Key Curriculum Press. Pre-dinner wine tasting was sponsored by Spectrum Educational.

Census at School in Canada



www.censusatschool.com



www.censusatschool.ca

Need engaging data to use with your classes with Fathom? You are going to LOVE Census at School! Census at School is an International, web-based student and teacher resource.

Canadian teachers can setup their class at www.censusatschool.ca and have students respond to an online questionnaire. When your students are done, your class data is available to you in electronic format, ready to dump into Fathom! There is an elementary questionnaire and a secondary questionnaire. This data gets fed into a national and in international database. You can access the international database at www.censusatschool.com

Instructions for accessing and using the international data are available at www.censusatschool.ca where excellent Ontario activities for Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and MDM4U are housed in French and English. The activities include instructional PowerPoints, teacher supports, and student handouts. Activities developed for Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and Western Canada are also available at www.censusatschool.ca

Canada joins the UK, South Africa, Queensland (Australia), and New Zealand as international partners in the Census at School project. This project was conceived by Neville Davies in the UK. He is also the driving force behind three other related resources:

- Experiments at School (will be profiled in next issue)
- Teaching Statistics Journal (will be profiled in next issue)
- Census at School Random Data Selector CD (a powerful offline option for students and teachers)

The Census at School Random Data Selector CD should be available shortly in Canada. Purchasing details will be emailed to you as soon as they become available.

ENO Online Math Discussion Group

The Education Network of Ontario's has a mathematics discussion group and curricula links web page moderated by Gord Cooke. In December, Gord will be featuring guest Sunita Kossta from Statistics Canada, who will share teaching ideas from the Census at School online project.

How can you participate?

- Go to www.enoreo.on.ca
- Get a login and password which is free for all educators in Ontario
- Join Gord in the eno.ped.across.math newsgroup

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

Things to look forward to in the next Issue of the Ontario Fathom Newsletter:

- Tinkerplots Update
- Census at Schools Statistics Canada Project Update
- Second Annual Statistics Canada Data Fair Update

Tom Steinke
tom@vlearning.ca
www.vlearning.ca