

# Contents

Introduction	vi
The <i>MPJ</i> Story	viii
Acknowledgements	x

## PRE-ALGEBRA LESSONS

How Big is Barbie	Ratios	2
M&M Count and Crunch	Ratio & Proportion, Percentage	4
Counting Fish	Ratio & Proportion	8
Don't Break my Stride	Rate, Formulas, Statistics	11
4-Digit Problem	Order of Operations	13
Wallflowers	Integers	14
The Postman Always Rings Twice	Integers	18
Piggy Banks	Integers	20
Candy Bars	Fractions (Addition & Subtraction)	23
Brownies	Fractions (Multiplication)	25
Beef Jerky	Fractions (Division)	27
Playing with a Full Deck	Statistics & Probability	29

## ALGEBRA LESSONS

Number Tricks	Expressions	34
I'm Thinking of a Number...	Writing & Solving Equations	36
Pig Pen Algebra	Writing & Solving Equations	38
Rule Quest	Writing & Solving Equations	40
Rising Water	Writing & Solving Equations	45
The Student-Generated Word Problem	Variables, Solving Equations	49
Algebra Walk	Graphing	50
Staircases & Ramps	Slope	53
Tumbling Cars	Slope	57
Monster Cars	Linear Equations	59
The Jogging Hare	Linear Equations	64
CoolShoes.com	Best Fit Lines	66
Land Cruiser	Rate, Formulas	69
Stixture Problems	Mixture Problems	72
The Tortoise and The Hare	Systems	74
Rescue Mission	Systems	77
The X-Files	Systems	81
Olympic Swim Times	Systems, Best Fit Line	83
Robotic Disney	Coordinate Geometry, Circumcenter	86
The Migratory Paths of Birds	Solving Systems, Parametric Equations	89
Empty Box	Polynomials	92
The Pizza Box	Polynomials	95
Pool Decks	Quadratics	98
The Coin Fountain	Quadratics	105
Parabolic Pizza	Quadratics	108
Town Grid	Distance Formula	111
The Billabong and the Bush	Matrices	114

## Contents (continued)

### ALGEBRA LESSONS (continued)

Zeno's Bouncing Ball	Sequences and Series	118
Calculator Logos	Functions, Calculus	121
Original Works	Assessment	123

### GEOMETRY LESSONS

How High: Beyond a Shadow of a Doubt	Similar Triangles	126
How High: The Right Stuff	Special Right Triangles	128
How High: Surveyor's Trig Trick	Tangent Ratio	130
How High: Do You Have the Inclination?	Similar Triangles	132
How High: The Chinese Difference	Similar Triangles	134
The Mason's Secret	Angle Sum of a Polygon, Tessellations	136
The America's Cup Sail	Similarity, Area of Trapezoids. Trigonometry	139
The Fire-Fish Story	Proofs	142
Baseball Congruency	Triangle Congruency	143
Shipping Conundrum	Pythagorean Theorem	146
The Gum Drop	Area	148
A Slice of Pi	Circumference, Pi	151
Poison Weed	Area of Sectors	153
Polygon House	Area of Polygons	156
Swimming Pools	Surface Area & Volume of Prisms	159
King Tut	Attributes of Pyramids	163
The Luxor	Surface Area and Volume of Pyramids	165
The Shopkeeper's Jar	Volume of Spheres	167
Super Size It!	Surface Area & Volume	170
Can There Be Giants?	Surface Area & Volume	172
Whatever Floats Your Boat	Volume of Prisms	175
Shot Put Arc	Arc Length	179
Strike a Chord	Chords of Circles, Power Point Theorems	182
Reflection Golf	Transformations (Reflections)	185
Kaleidoscope	Transformations	185
William Tell	Transformations (Rotations)	188
The Selling of America	Four-Color Conjecture, Problem Solving	191
The Vector Map	Vectors	194
Princess Dido and the Ox Skin	Perimeter & Area	196

### ARTICLES

QMI 4.5	Principles of Quality Math Instruction	203
TIMSS: A Call for Substance	Interview with Dr. Schmidt of TIMSS	205
TIMSS: A Tale of Three Countries	Synopsis of the TIMSS Video Classroom Study	208
TIMSS: A TIMSS Primer	Overview of the TIMSS Report	211
A Mountain of Vision	Case Study in Raising Test Scores	212
Portfolios	More Than a Glorified Notebook	216
A Struggle Among Equals	Three-Part Series on Cooperative Learning	218
Nuts & Bolts	Sample Course Requirements & Grading Policies	221
Kicking the Habit	Textbook Free Instruction	224

## Contents (continued)

### ARTICLES (continued)

On a Good Day	A Model Lesson	226
Sleeping with the Enemy	Being Project Minded in a Textbook Curriculum	229
Inside & Out	Multiple Representations	231
Measurement	A Bridge Between the Concrete and the Abstract	232
Teaching Backwards	Moving Students Forward by Using Context	234
Ultimate Cosmic Power	Abstract Generalizations of Pervasive Patterns	236
Cannonballs and Concepts	Going Beyond Algorithms for Understanding	239
Graphing for Meaning	Student Understanding of Graphing	241
Beavis and Barbie	Who Will Pass? Who Will Know More Math?	243
Still All Full of Stuffin'	What the Scarecrow Really Received	245
Godzilla or Godzuki	Competent versus Cuddly	247
Sculpting Young Thinkers	Teaching Problem Solving	249
Christmas Carols and Disco Tunes	The Drill-in-Kill Regime	250
Martian Math	A Quest for Values	251
The Economy of Thought	The Lazy Person's Guide to Everything	254
Universal Remote	Teaching for Understanding	255
The Railroad and the Kayak	Evaluation vs. Assessment	257
Fluff-n-Stuff	Determining the Value of a Math Project	259
Lesson Studies	A Professional Development Model	261
Inspiration, Perspiration, Desperation	Creating Math Projects	263

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Dentist's Puzzle	Variables, Number Sense	266
Psychic Probability	Probability	267
Around the World	Circumference, Systems of Equations	268
Red Dot - Green Dot	Inequalities	269
The Tic-Tac Equation	Linear Equations	270
The Handyman's Math Trick	Additive Property of Equality	270
Brother in the Box	Area of Parallelograms	271
Mega Translation	Geometric Transformations	271
Age Trick	Algebraic Expressions	272
Math Walk	Assessment	272
Twenty-One	Review Game	273
Wipeout	Review Game	274
Index		275