

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 39 NO. 1

MIDDLE / JR. HIGH SCHOOL

$\Sigma$  SIGMA

2017 – 2018

MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

A HEARTY WELCOME BACK TO ALL OUR PREVIOUS LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE NEW PARTICIPANTS. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE A GOOD YEAR.

**OFFICIAL CONTEST DATES:** Dates for this year's contests are as follows.

1. Oct. 23 – 27
2. Dec. 4 – 8

3. Jan. 8 – 12
4. Feb. 12 – 16

5. April 26 – 30

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**MAILINGS:** There is a change from the past in that we will be sending the contests/newsletters/forms, etc. **electronically** this year. We are actually hoping that this will make it easier for you as well. If your school blocks outside emails, please allow the SIGMA mailings to be received. Of course, at the end of the year, the awards will be sent via the U.S. mail.

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**RESULTS:** Please be prompt in returning the contest results. If the contest dates fall on school vacations or conflict with school activities, please attempt to give the tests within 5 school days either before or after the specified dates.

Contest results can be returned to us via the U.S. postal service or electronically. If sent by "snail" mail, send them to **SIGMA, 5100 NORMA BLVD, LINCOLN, NE 68506.**

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**CONTESTS:** The contests may contain material that is new or strange for your students. Our contests do not follow textbook sequence and are not necessarily textbook problems.

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**COMMENT:** If there are obvious typing errors (hopefully none) please correct them. However, refrain from explaining the problem. We urge you to be cautious about the type of information you give students to clarify a problem. All students should have the same opportunity for fair competition.

**DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REPORTING FORM:** Check the enclosed page with the form, it has a completed example. Some additional instructions are also given on the left portion of the partial example.

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**RUNNING, ACUMULATING , SCORE SHEET:** You will need to keep a record which contains student accumulated total scores on the contests. Individuals are given an award at the end of the 5th contest. All students meeting a certain minimum score of the possible 40 points are given this award.

We suggest that a spreadsheet could be the most efficient way of keeping track of the students' scores. However, we can also supply you with another possible kind of form if you wish. Request that form if you wish to use it.

**MULTIPLE TEACHER FORM:** If you have multiple teachers administering the test, a helpful form that could be used is also being sent electronically. Make a copy for each teacher for each contest – then each teacher returns the form to you and from that you can fill out the reporting form that is to be returned to us.

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**TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

Home:        Leona (402) 489-8376  
               Jerry (402) 423-1766    (Let ring 6 times to leave a message.)

e-mail:       [lpenner@windstream.net](mailto:lpenner@windstream.net)    (The character l is a lower case letter, not the number one.)  
               [jbeck@inebraska.com](mailto:jbeck@inebraska.com)

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**NOTE 1:        \*\*\*\*\* CALCULATORS ARE PERMITTED \*\*\*\*\***

**NOTE 2:        OUR WEBSITE IS        [sigmamathcontest.com](http://sigmamathcontest.com)**

You may download newsletters, tests, registration form and book order form. All are PDF files.

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**FOR FUN:** From time to time mathematical items and/or quotes will be included as part of the newsletter. We hope you will find these enjoyable.

**\*A NUMBER TRICK WITH DICE**

Have someone roll 3 dice (or the same one 3 times) and ask them to hide the results. Ask the person to double the number of spots (pips) on the first die, add 5, then multiply by 5. Add on the number of spots (pips) on the second die and then multiply by 10. Finally, add on the number of spots (pips) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> die. Ask the person to give you the results. Then you subtract 250 and you know what the 3 dice are.

For example: if the 3 results were 4, 3 and 5, the calculation would be  
 $[(4 \times 2 + 5) \times 5 + 3] \times 10 + 5 = 685$ ; Subtract 250 and you get 435.

Actually, this works for any positive integers from 1 to 9.

Perhaps your students could prove why this always works.

\*This is taken from a book entitled NUMBER5 ARE FOR3VER by Liz Strachan.