

In this the second journal of our editorship we have a variety of articles that address a number of topics. Two articles by Knight and Thompson consider the recent published Williams Report on Primary Education¹ (July 2008), from a different perspective, indicating that we all read and interpret the same thing in different ways – looking for things that resonate with our particular beliefs and interests.

The *News from ATM* is in fact from Denmark in this issue. We have long had relationships with a number of international associations and we hope from time to time to bring you news from these partner associations. This is particularly interesting because it documents the influence the Danish association has on governmental policy with regard to testing. In the same vein ‘The Two Old Men’ also talk about testing and express their views on the current testing regime and how it might be replaced by assessment.

In the second part of *From Mathematics to Mathematics-with-ICT* Jay Timotheus takes us into the classroom and looks at his ideas in practice. Some interesting ideas here for teaching old topics using ICT and a reference to a file on the ATM website. Keeping with the ICT theme, Jenni and Jon Ingram share with us some of their favourite *blog* sites for mathematics and its teaching. I was fascinated by the variety of sites. It links very nicely with Jay’s article on ICT and mathematics. There are also sites that have instructions for setting up your own *blog* in the final paragraph. Derek Ball shares with us an account of launching a new branch in Reading, a joint branch with the Mathematics Association. He used the programme *Number Grids* from the ATM disc *Interactive Mathematics* which produced some interesting discussion.

The primary phase is visited with a classroom account in Tom O’Brien and Chris Wallach’s article on working with 6-year-olds. Marion Walter shares with us her games created for the young son of some friends and she develops the ideas further within the article and offers us a range of activities for younger students based on dice.

The article on proof (‘Breaking the equation’ by Andreas Stylianides) provides many ideas for approaching this topic with students. This is one that I know I am going to make use of in the term to come.

The front cover features the work of Tobia Ravà. He uses number as a basis for his artwork and Garrod Musto was inspired by an exhibition he visited to carry out some cross curricular work

with his pupils. The work is very striking and I hope will stimulate some of you to try it in your own classroom. In addition to reading the article you might like to visit the artist’s own website found at www.tobiarava.com/

Jonny Griffiths has supplied another RISP with an account of what happened in his classroom. His writing continues to have the humour that was a feature of *Correlation Street* but the focus on the mathematics brings his work alive for me.

Anne Watson submitted an article on *Notation*. These are the deliberations of the delegates at the Annual Institute of Mathematics Pedagogy 2008. The group of participants spend several days discussing a topic and I hope you agree with me that their thoughts and conclusions are very thought provoking.

The article on *Nim* was particularly interesting for me because each year the students on the Maths Enhancement Course (MEC) at Bath University have to find a topic in mathematics to explore and subsequently write about. *Nim* was a topic for one of the students in 2007, so I spent some time comparing the two offerings.

Despite having two offerings from Hasan Unal in *MT212*, I couldn’t resist putting in another of his wonderful algebraic visualisations. They really make the algebra come alive for me. I think I must be a person who prefers the visual images to other representations.

Finally the article on puppets intrigued me. I can see that young pupils would respond well to puppets but the fact that top primary pupils were also motivated by them was a little surprising and then to find that secondary schools had begun to use puppets was a real revelation. I wonder if adult students would react favourably? Perhaps time to try things out with my MEC students!

Margaret Jones

¹ Williams Report downloadable from www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

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