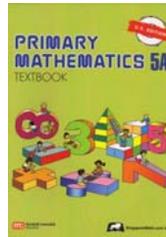


**IQ Abacus Newsletter**  
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## INSIGHT IQ ABACUS

### Everyone's Dream Math Learning Path: Abacus ★ Singapore Math ★ Mathlete Teams

**Abacus Math:** IQ Abacus started with a single program "Abacus Mental Math" in 2004. Soon we found out that, without appropriate guidance, students did not realize that their talent in mental math could help them excel in school math. That is why Singapore Math –the acknowledged best math curriculum in the world – was then blended into the abacus mental math classes according to the students' school grade levels. Once they applied their mental math advantage to solving school math problems, many students easily scored at the top of their school tests and the standardized tests.



**Singapore Math:** On the other hand, since Singapore Math was considered a supplement in the Abacus Mental Math program, less than 20 minutes out of each 80-minute-class session was spent on Singapore Math. Some students needed extended instruction time to grasp the concepts. In other cases, some students wanted to accelerate their school math curriculum to the next grade level. We therefore launched the stand-alone Singapore Math program.

**Mathlete Teams:** Towards the end of elementary school and the start of middle school, many of our students have acquired the combined skills of fast accurate calculation and analytical thinking. Being at the top of their school is a common occurrence for IQ Abacus students. This combination of skills further suggests a high potential in winning math challenges beyond their own schools. The American Mathematics Contest (AMC 8, 10, and 12) and MATHCOUNTS attract hundreds of thousands of Grades 6 to 12 students every year. Many colleges

ask for the competition scores and some even offer scholarships based on these test scores. As such, when one of our students reaches a math level equivalent to 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher, our supplementary materials to the abacus class become challenges for MATHCOUNTS, AMC, and other competitions. We hope that by offering training and platforms for the contests, students will become more motivated in actively learning mathematics and enter ideal colleges for future promising careers.



### 2009 Speedy Math Competition and Abacus/Mental Math Certification Exam

According to US Mental Math Federation (USMMF), the 2009 Speedy Math Competition will be conducted on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 9:30 AM. The location is the **Chandler Tumbleweed Recreation Center**. In addition to the competition, a Certification Examination on abacus/mental math levels will be held in the second hour.



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The Speedy Math competition is open to the general public. In order to make this event a positive experience for participants, *all* participants will get awards and prizes. Top winners will be awarded with exceptional trophies. Students will enjoy the glory if they win, learn to appreciate other people's achievement and allay their disappointment if they do not do well, while gaining test taking experience, and stress management skills during the competition. We encourage all IQ Abacus students to do their best to meet the challenges. IQ Abacus sponsors a \$15 gift card for each participant. That way, we pay most of the admission fees for our students to obtain this valuable experience.

In addition to the competition, all abacus students, except newly enrolled ones, are expected to take their Certification Exam on the same day. Everyone should have received a target level from their instructor. We hope you will reach your target by May 2<sup>nd</sup>!

### Mental Math Team Going to the World!

On 8/2, the "World City Cup - Abacus, Mental Arithmetic & Mathematics Competition" will take place in Hong Kong. On 8/9, the "International Mental Arithmetic Invitational Competition" will be held in Taiwan. In addition, around Christmas Day, the "11<sup>th</sup> Pan Pacific International Abacus Mental Math Competition" will be conducted in Malaysia.

IQ Abacus encourages our students to compete on a world scale when possible. We are trying to organize a team to participate in the contests in Hong Kong and Taiwan in one trip during August. When our team attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan Pacific International Abacus Mental Math Competition in San Jose in 2007, we swept away many top place trophies and amazed people from 10 countries! Talk to Ms. Chiou if you'd like to be in our world team!

### Extra, extra! Timothy Horng made it to the 2009 MATHCOUNTS State Competition!!

The MATHCOUNTS competition is divided into four levels: school, chapter, state, and national. In general, the problems become harder as one progresses towards nationals. Many universities give scholarships including full tuition to winners at the state level. Some of MATHCOUNTS' sponsors, such as Texas Instruments, General Motors, and Lockheed Martin also provide scholarships. The President of the United States will also meet award recipients of the

MATHCOUNTS National Competition in the Oval Office.



Congratulations to mathletes in the IQ Abacus team who competed at the MATHCOUNTS Papago Chapter competition at Dobson High School on February 28. After that, IQ Abacus student, **Timothy Horng**, was invited to the State competition on March 14. The remaining IQ Abacus mathletes were only a few points away from being selected. Although we eventually cannot make the national level, we still want to give a round of applause to all the mathletes who spent only 40 minutes a week for less than 6 months for such a very challenging yet exhilarating experience.



*IQ Abacus mathletes in the MATHCOUNTS competition. From left to right: Chris Lee, Leo Lin, Yifan Li, and Shihao Yang.*

### Extra, extra! Melody Yeh won a laptop!!

The 5th Annual MathMatters Contest (visit [mathmatters.accordeducation.org](http://mathmatters.accordeducation.org)) was held on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Over 1,300 students competed at 14 contest centers in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. This competition is open to 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Bravo to those IQ Abacus students who signed up without hesitation! The questions are not

typically seen in math textbooks and require high critical thinking skills. You may want to consider MathMatters as the "Junior MATHCOUNTS"!



Congratulations to **Melody Yeh**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, who won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Sonoran Science Academy site in Phoenix. Her prize was a free computer laptop! Moreover, Bronson Wu (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Cindy Wu (5<sup>th</sup> grade) placed at 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in the contest. Melody Yeh is certified at Level 1, Bronson Wu is certified at Level Pro 4, and Cindy Wu is certified at Level 2. The Mental Math Whizzes are dazzlingly skilled in thinking math, too!

**Online Math League (OML)  
Math Contest Grand Result**

All three tests of the Online Math League (OML) math contest for Grades 2 to 5 were concluded on 3/29. The final top three places of each IQ Abacus Team are listed in Table I. The rankings are determined by the total points obtained in all three tests. These top scorers will be awarded with medals.

**Table I. Top Scorers of the OML Math Contest**

The top three places in each team: the numbers in the parenthesis indicate the ranking and the certified mental math level, respectively.

Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Aatmik Mallya (1,6), Kevin Tang (1,2), William Wu (3,5)	Keegan Kow (1,2), Heejun Kim (2,NA), Christina Ofori-kyei (3,8)	Ricky Hsu (1,3), Bronson Wu (1,Pro4), Mani Kandan (3,4)	Cindy Wu (1,2), Melody Yeh (1,1), Esther Cheng (3,5)

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team, **Aatmik Mallya** and **Kevin Tang** both scored 44 out of a total of 45 points and tied at 3<sup>rd</sup> places among a total of about 1,400 2<sup>nd</sup> graders! Surprisingly, Kevin Tang is still in 1<sup>st</sup> grade but his certified Level 2 abacus mental math skill supported him to achieve such success! In our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team, both

**Ricky Hsu** and **Bronson Wu** obtained perfect scores of 45 and tied at 1<sup>st</sup> places out of almost 2,500 students! This year, we have 10, 4, 7, and 4 students in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams, respectively. The OML uses the top 4 scores in each test of each team to determine the team scores. Among a total of 41 schools, the IQ Abacus 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team won the 1<sup>st</sup> place! Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team is ranked #8 among 81 schools! We are so proud of you, IQ Abacus Teams!!

**Strategic Summer ~  
Time to Gain Advantage**

Summers are the best-kept secret of superstars – the time for your child to stand out from the pack and gain an edge. (Elizabeth Wissner-Gross, *What High Schools Don't Tell You*)

➤ **IQ Mathlete Prep Camp**

Are you a second grader but are into fourth grade math? Are you normally at the top rank of your school? Come joining the *IQ Mathlete Prep Camp*!

We have materials that are difficult but within the reach of your age. The camp is divided into four levels: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grades, 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades, 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. If you feel that you are weak in word problems and would like to improve your problem solving skills, the camp should help, too.

➤ **Mental Math Power Class – for continued students**

Thought your abacus/mental math skill is lagging? Or did you vow to be a Pro?

If you are staying in town in the summer, this is the perfect chance to get a "makeover" of your abacus and mental math skills. The best part is that, finally, it's O.K. if you do not do any homework!

We offer three times a week, a total of 12 classes or 18 hours abacus/mental math booster camp in either June or July. Since we will meet almost every other day for 1.5 hour each time, students will get to practice enough hands-on exercises in class. No homework done? No problem!

➤ **English Writing / Practical Chinese / SAT Math / SAT English**

Always feel lost when you are asked to write something? Nobody speaks Chinese at home so that you cannot speak even though you've took some classes? Is it the time for you to prepare for the college? IQ Abacus prepared a series of excellent courses for you! Please visit the IQ Abacus web site at [www.IQabacus.com](http://www.IQabacus.com) for details.

### IQ "Mathlete Camp" on President's Day Long Weekend

In order to provide a fun and meaningful vacation for the mathletes during the President's Day long weekend, we invited 9 mathletes to Dr. Horng and Ms. Chiou's home for a Mathlete Camp.



The mathletes met at IQ Abacus School in the evening on Saturday, February 14. We played ball, board, and computer games before a MATHCOUNTS target round started. Mr. Lin, Leo's dad, considerably provided warm and delicious dinner boxes to us. The food was so delicious that we consumed it in no time! That convenience also provided extra time for more Wii games and math works when we arrived home. We battled in the exciting math games on the internet for 1.5 hour before sleeping. By 11:00 PM, boys and girls went to different rooms ready for sweet dreams.

We got up by 8 AM and had a nice and rich breakfast. The next 1.5 hours were spent on an AMC8 test and review. After the math exercise, game time! We all moved to the community park for a B.B.Q. lunch. It was a beautiful Sunday. Our mathletes, especially Shihao and Chris, are also good tennis players. They all played together in the tennis court. When everyone sweated a lot and ready for a rest, the food was ready to be served! Yum!!

After lunch, we went home for another round of MATHCOUNTS questions. Now that we did a lot of math, all of us went bowling. This also marked a happy and memorable ending of the camp.

The IQ Mathlete Camp is a voluntary service from IQ Abacus. The attendees are selective and by invitation only. We intend to conduct similar activities again when we have a break of multiple day. If you are a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and older and possess a solid math skill equivalent to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above, let us know if you would like to be invited next time.

**Shhhhhhhhh, it's not official yet, but we want you to be the first ones to know ... "Aim High Institute" may be coming to you in July 2009!**

US Mental Math Federation (USMMF), the organization that IQ Abacus is affiliated with, is expanding its horizons! It is sponsoring a charter school that will integrate what USMMF stands for –better math skills – and much more!

The K to 8 (and soon to be K to 12) **Aim High Institute (AHI)** is planning to open its doors in July 2009! The school is custom-made to fulfill the dreams of many parents! It has a higher quality than a private school but it's **FREE!**

AHI is a small charter school (only 9 students per grade) to be located in the East Valley that will especially focus on four main areas:

**S.T.E.M.G.:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Globalism. The Math program will be based on the IQ Abacus curriculum.

**Character Education:** topics covered will be evolving from simple manners, self-respect and dignity, to interpersonal relationships including filial piety, friendship, resistance to peer pressure; to self-identity (in middle school), and eventually marriage preparation, parenting, and work ethics in high school.

**Bilingualism:** Students will take Chinese or Arabic five periods a week. Both languages are classified as "Critical Languages" that are vital to the United States interests.

**Quality Education:** AHI defines Quality Education as not only the best curricula but also the best methodologies available. AHI heeds the call for "international benchmarking" by continuously keeping up to date with the latest international educational achievements.

"Inception" is always difficult. AHI needs your support to help the students. All parents are invited to attend our Open House to learn more. The first Open House / fund Raiser event will be scheduled soon. Please watch out for school announcements or ask IQ Abacus staff for the latest news.

You may also visit AHI on their new website: [www.aimhighinstitute.org](http://www.aimhighinstitute.org) where you can leave your contact information. AHI staff will notify you of all new developments including open house dates and times as well as dates and procedures for enrollment.