

MathEdge Teams Excel in 2007 World Math Contest

Bay Area Teams Won 8 Prestigious Awards in 2007 Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest Held in Hong Kong

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – August 16, 2007 – Ewa Garg and Yick Cheung, Directors of MathEdge, led two teams consisting of eight students from the Bay Area ranging from 6th to 7th grade. The two teams, **Silicon Valley USA** and **California-East Bay**, were invited to compete in the Eleventh **Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest (PMWC)** held from July 13th to 18th in Hong Kong.

Competing in the 11th PMWC were forty-five teams of about 200 students from various countries across the globe such as Mexico, Australia, Bulgaria, China, India, Japan, South Africa, etc. The participation in this contest was by invitation only.

Represented team **Silicon Valley USA** were Students **KAREN LU (路凯琳)** (6th grader from Discovery Charter in San Jose), **NAMRATA GARG** (6th grader from Kennedy Middle School in Cupertino), **SPENCER YEE (余浩)** (6th grader from Ardenwood School in Fremont), and **JEFFREY ZHANG (张杰夫)** (7th grader from Bret Harte in San Jose).

Students **JIATONG HE (何佳桐)** (7th grader from Lawson Middle School in Cupertino), **PHILIP LIANG (梁啟睿)** (7th grader from JLS in Palo Alto), **Aaron ZHOU** (7th grader from Hopkins in Mission Fremont), and **ALVIN ZHOU (周安文)** (6th grader from Mission Valley School in Mission Fremont) comprised team **California East Bay**.

The teams have participated for the third year. Continuing the success of the previous years, the teams have won even more awards and higher honor. The two teams have won a total of eight awards (one more than last year), three from the team competition and five from the individual competition.

Forty-five teams were randomly grouped into four groups with eleven teams each for the team competition. Despite of the extremely difficult team problems in a strong group, team **Silicon Valley USA** unexpectedly won the **2nd place honor, which** outperformed many seasoned teams. That team score was high enough to earn first place in another group. This is the highest award that the team has achieved over the past 3 years.

Both team members were phenomenal in the contest. The sum of the team's individual scores has made **California East Bay team** the **2nd place** winner and **Silicon Valley USA team** the **3rd place** winner (just losing tiebreak to team **California East Bay**) for the Po Leung Cup.

In the individual competition, student **PHILIP LIANG** took the 2nd honor. Students **KAREN LU**, **NAMRATA GARG**, and **JIATONG HE**, and **SPENCER YEE** took the 3rd honor.

The above students were selected from two rounds of tryouts. The first tryout was held in early February with 112 students (ranging from 3rd to 7th graders) from 48 different Bay Area schools taking the qualifying test. From that, twelve students (the top 10%) were selected for the twelve week training.

Besides the 8 students mentioned above, **EDGAR CHEN (陈怡先)** (5th grader from Foothill school in Saratoga), **SIERRA LINCOLN** (6th grader from Harker school in San Jose), **ISAAC**

LAM (6th grader from Miller in Cupertino), and ALICE ZHAO (7th grader from Hopkins in Mission Fremont) were among the students who have gone through the training.

A second test was administered in late April to select the final eight contestants. For these students, all expenses (except airfare) for five days including room, board, and local tours in Hong Kong were covered. This was a unique opportunity for the elementary school and junior high students to have an academic and cultural exchange with children around the world.

Doing well in Math competitions requires sound reasoning, logical thinking and most important problem solving skills, which are different from the straightforward computational math done in school. Hence, **MathEdge**, which specializes in problem solving and competitive math training, believes in focusing on the entire problem solving process instead of only getting the right answers.

About MathEdge

MathEdge specializes in teaching problem solving and competitive math training.

MathEdge was created in 2004 to teach students to apply problem-solving skills to mathematics. As opposed to the computational skills normally taught in schools, the *MathEdge* technique focuses on the reasoning between a problem and its solution, rather than on the answer itself.

MathEdge students has won many awards in various national and International math competitions such as MathCounts, MathOlympiads, American Mathematics Contest, Primary Math World Contest, etc.



Back left to right: Aaron Garg (assistant coach), Aaron ZHOU, ALVIN ZHOU, JIATONG HE, Ewa Garg (coach), and Joon Yee (assistant coach)

Front left to right: PHILIP LIANG, NAMRATA GARG, SPENCER YEE, JEFFREY ZHANG, KAREN LU, and Yick Cheung (coach)