

Learning & Teaching

Mathematics Teacher: Learning and Teaching PK-12, is NCTM's newest journal that reflects the current practices of mathematics education, as well as maintains a knowledge base of practice and policy in looking at the future of the field. Content is aimed at preschool to 12th grade with peer-reviewed and invited articles. *MTLT* is published monthly.

ARTICLE TITLE:

AUTHOR NAMES:

DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER:

VOLUME:

ISSUE NUMBER:

Mission Statement

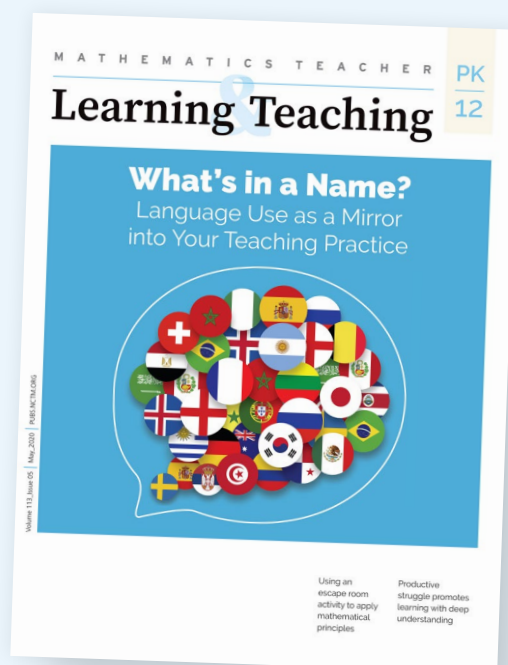
The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics advocates for high-quality mathematics teaching and learning for each and every student.

Approved by the NCTM Board of Directors
on July 15, 2017.

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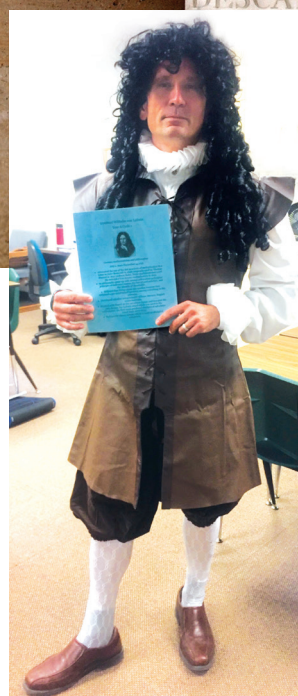
The Power of Sharing the History of Mathematics

Mark Cox

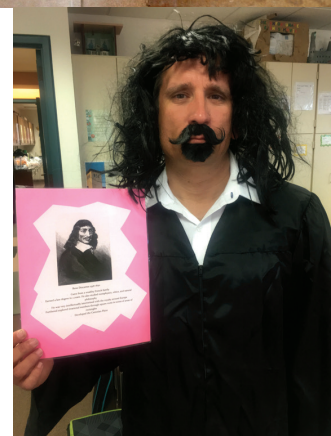
For the Love of Mathematics, driven by reader suggestions and submissions, offers visual, engaging, and inspiring material for you, the teacher.

Mr. Hughes's 10th-grade geometry class is cemented in my mind like the rod Eratosthenes stuck in the earth to measure its diameter. Why? Because extraordinary activities that teachers enact to illustrate topics become woven into students' brains. What better way to make mathematics come alive for students than by introducing students to the mathematicians who discovered and developed the concepts themselves!

For example, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz "visited" my class to teach the binary system for place value; Srinivasa Ramanujan discussed composite versus prime numbers; Ada Lovelace kicked off our coding unit; and Descartes explained the coordinate plane. Researching the historical stories, anecdotal and chronicled, on the topics I teach became an adventure, both for me and for the students, because we not only broadened our knowledge of the history of mathematics but also



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz



René Descartes

created deeper extensions. On any given day, my students never knew who would walk into class and teach the next lesson, even if all the guest lecturers looked a lot like their teacher!

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doi:10.5951/MTLT.2020.0352