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Current Headlines in Evergreen

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Evergreen students win awards at Hong Kong math contest

This summer, Ewa Garg, director of MathEdge, led two teams consisting of eight students ranging from the fifth to seventh grades to the Tenth Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest. The two teams, Silicon Valley USA and California MathEdge, were invited to compete in the contest held in Hong Kong from July 17-21. Among the team members were four students from Evergreen, Ramya Rangan, Lexing Tong, Amanda Chen and Matthew Lin.

Last year the MathEdge teams participated for the first time and won three awards. This year, the teams won two team and five individual awards.

The California MathEdge team consisted of Abhijit Pujare, a seventh grader at Kennedy Middle School in Cupertino; and Harker School sixth graders Patrick Yang, Revanth Kosaraju, and Ramya Rangan, from Evergreen. The Silicon Valley USA team consisted of J.F. Smith fifth grader Lexing Tong, Rogers Middle School seventh grader Archit Kulkarni, Miller Middle School sixth grader Alexander Ma and Kennedy Middle School seventh grader Elaine Tang.

Forty eight teams from various countries throughout the world competed in the contest. Students represented Mexico, Australia, Bulgaria, China, India, Japan, South Africa as well as the United States. Participation in this contest was by invitation only.

Both teams were phenomenal. Although tied for first place in score, team California MathEdge won the first runner up award after losing a tiebreaker. Silicon Valley USA won the Merit award in the team competition contest.

In the individual competition, students Revanth Kosaraju and Patrick Yang won second place honors while Alexander Ma, Archit Kulkarni and Ramya Rangan received third place awards. The remaining three students, Abhijit Pujare, Elaine Tang and Lexing Tong also performed exceptionally, each only one point short of an individual award.

The students were selected from two rounds of tryout competitions. The first tryout was held in February with 102 students, ranging from third to seventh grade, from 52 different Bay Area schools taking the qualifying test. From that, 10 students representing the top 10 percent were selected and given 12 weeks of training. Besides the eight students mentioned above, Amanda Chen, a seventh grader at Chaboya Middle School and Matthew Lin, a fifth grader at J.F. Smith Elementary School were also selected for training.

A second test was administered in April to select the final eight contestants. The winning students received awards, with the exception of air fare, to Hong Kong. Their awards paid for five room and board and local tours. 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. 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.



The eight students attending the 10th Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest gather for a picture after the awards ceremony. In the back row, from the left are Cheng Yung Ma (assistant coach), Revanth Kosaraju, Abhijit Pujare, Alexander Ma, Archit Kulkarni. In front, from the left are Lucy Lu (assistant coach), Elaine Tang, Ramya Rangan, Patrick Yang, Lexing Tong and Ewa Garg (coach).