

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



## Earl Haig Secondary School

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### WELCOME TO MATHEMATICS AT HAIG

The 2010 – 2011 academic year has arrived and whether this is your first year at Haig or your last, please read over this newsletter with your parents/guardians so that you are fully informed of the practices and procedures in the Mathematics Department. You will have received the Evaluation Profile and Outline for your Math course. Please note carefully the policies and procedures with respect to absences on test or assignment days. There will be no exceptions to these rules. Both the student and one of his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) should sign the Student Information Sheet, which will be handed out in class, to acknowledge their understanding of this newsletter. The student should then return the signed Student Information Sheet to his or her teacher as soon as possible.

An important change has been made to our assessment policy for late assignments. Our new policy reflects those changes made by the Ministry of Education in their Growing Success report for Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010. **With respect to late assignments, marks can be deducted, up to and including the full value of the assignment.**

For those grade 9 and 10 students enrolled in academic math, in addition to receiving a hardcopy of your textbook in class, you will be now able to access your textbook in electronic form online. Details on how you can access your online textbook will be discussed in class or please call the math office.

Extra help in Math is available in many forms. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for details. I strongly encourage you to take responsibility for your Math education. Seek help early to avoid confusion later on. Math is unlike any other subject. The level of difficulty and the time spent on homework increases each year because almost every topic in math builds on the knowledge and skills learned during the previous year. A disciplined approach to studying math is required in order to be successful. Good, regular study habits are a necessity when it comes to being prepared to writing evaluations in math. The time and effort devoted to your math studies can have a direct correlation with how well you perform in your math course. Accordingly, you can expect Math homework to be assigned every day, except on test and exam days, in order to help you assimilate your understanding of these new concepts. If your effort does not seem to match your outcome, make sure you speak with your math teacher immediately so that you can jointly determine a plan of action intended to improve your results.

Get involved with Math life at Haig. There are numerous Math contests held throughout the year – make sure you do not miss the October deadline for registration. The latest news from the Math department is posted on the bulletin board outside the Math Office, room 292, beside the display case. You can also visit our link on the school's website: [www.earlhaig.ca](http://www.earlhaig.ca). Join the Infinity Club if you want to go over contest problems with other students. As well, the Mathematics Society is an organization for students in grades 10 and higher who maintain an average of 90% or better in Math, attend workshops and seminars, and tutor their peers in the Extra Help Room.

CARPE DIEM and wishing everyone a successful year in math,

*Jane Lee*

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## Mission Statement

**Students and their parents/guardians must work together with teachers to achieve mathematics learning of the highest quality.**

**The mission of the EHSS Mathematics Department is to assist all students who are learning mathematics by helping them acquire and develop knowledge and skills that will make them life-long learners.**

## Assessment & Evaluation

**Assessment Strategies:** Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Exams, Homework, Portfolios, Journal Entries, Projects, Experiments, Labs, Enriched Tasks, Technology Based-Tasks

**Evaluation is based on the Achievement Chart Categories:**

- Knowledge & Understanding
- Application
- Thinking
- Communication

**Aids used on Tests:** Students are allowed to use scientific calculators, graphing calculators (when specified) and paper dictionaries (ESL allowance only). Any other electronic devices, such as electronic translators, PDAs, cell phones, etc. are **NOT PERMITTED**.

## Contest Dates

Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (open to ALL students)	<b>Nov. 24, 2010</b>
AMC 10 (for gr. 9 & 10 students) & AMC 12 (for gr. 11 & 12 students)	<b>Feb. 8, 2011</b>
Pascal (gr. 9), Cayley (gr. 10) & Fermat (gr. 11)	<b>Feb. 24, 2011</b>
Euclid (gr. 12)	<b>Apr. 12, 2011</b>
Fryer (gr. 9), Galois (gr. 10) & Hypatia (gr. 11)	<b>Apr. 13, 2011</b>

CNML (open to ALL students) **Oct. 19/10, Nov. 16/10, Dec. 14/10, Jan. 11/11, Feb. 22/11, Mar. 22/11**

**Registration for ALL contests (excluding CNMLs – registration not necessary) will take place at the beginning of October.**

**All contests will begin Period 1 (except the CNMLs, which take place after school), and run until the time limit specified for each contest, unless otherwise stated.**

## Recognition & Awards

At the end of every school year, recognition is given to the top achieving students in each grade and in each of the different course types. Selected students in grades 9, 10 & 11 are awarded certificates and gifts and recognized in an Awards Assembly. Graduating students in their grade 12 year are also recognized at the Graduates' Awards Assembly, held in June 2011, and will receive certificates, plaques and a gift, along with having their names inscribed on the school's Mathematics Achievement Plaque.

Students who are also good standing members of the Mathematics Society will also have their names inscribed on the school's Mathematics Society Achievement Plaque. These students will have attended the majority of the workshops and conferences held during the year, have participated and performed well in the contests throughout the year, peer-tutored in the Extra Help Room, and have achieved a minimum of 90% in their Mathematics courses.

## Policies & Expectations

**Missed Tests:** Students who miss tests for valid reasons (e.g., field trip, athletic competition, performances, etc.) must make arrangements with their teacher ahead of time. In case of illness or other unexpected absence, students must contact their teacher by phone on the day of the test. In all cases, the student should be prepared to write the test immediately upon return to school.

### Extra Help:

*Option 1:* Drop-in sessions – Monday through Friday, mornings from 8:00 – 8:30 am (except late start Wednesday mornings) and after school from 3:30 – 4:00 pm, in the Extra Help Room 293.

*Option 2:* Sign-up for a Peer Tutor from the Mathematics Society. Peer tutor forms available on the bulletin board outside the Math Office, room 292.

*Option 3:* By appointment with your Math teacher.

**Please note, there is no extra help on the day of tests or, for grade 12 classes, once the testing days (one or two day cycle) have begun.**

**Absences:** Students must bring a note signed by a parent/guardian.

**Late Assignments** must be accompanied with a note signed by a parent or guardian stating the reason for late submission.

*If an assignment is handed in after the deadline, the student may lose **SOME or ALL** of the marks allocated to the assignment.*

**Textbooks:** The cost to replace textbooks is \$80 for all grades. Students need to submit an undated cheque for \$80 to receive a grade 12 textbook. Once the grade 12 textbook is returned in June, the cheque will also be returned. All cheques are to be made out to EHSS.

## Course Types

**Academic** Courses develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems. These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well. They incorporate practical applications as appropriate.

**Applied** Courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and develop students' knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas and students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study.

**Enriched** Courses offer the same course of study as the Academic Courses, along with opportunities for students to develop a greater breadth of knowledge and skills through involvement with enrichment activities. Participation in contests is required and it is highly recommended that students registering for an enriched course achieved a minimum of 85% in their prior math course.

## Tips for Success in Mathematics

1. Set aside time for practicing Math problems **every day**.
2. **Ask questions** as soon as they arise.
3. **Seek extra help** before, during or after school.
4. **Keep up** with the daily lessons and homework.
5. **Pay attention** in class.
6. **Speak to your teacher** about your progress.
7. Keep **organized** and tidy notes.
8. Get the corrections to quizzes, tests and assignments **as soon as possible**.
9. **Review** your notes every day.
10. **Understand** how to do the problems instead of memorizing the method.

Think of your Math knowledge and skills as being similar to the foundations of a building. With a weak foundation, a building will soon collapse and fall. However, a building with a strong foundation can stand the test of time. You need to develop and build upon your Math skills. Weak Math skills will eventually lead to confusion and frustration when you encounter new topics. A better understanding of your Math topics will lead to a stronger foundation for your Mathematical knowledge and skills.

## Mathematics Teachers



**D. Esses**



**A. Fingerhut**



**O. Fridman**



**C. Ha**



**P. Im**



**Z. Jiwani**



**J. Kestenbaum**



**T. Kwan**



**J. Lee, CL**



**M. Lee**



**M. Motica**



**T. Muskat**



**E. Orzeck**



**J. Pascua**



**C. Scholler, ACL**



**N. Valin**



**T. Wong**



**L. Wu**



**L. Wun**

