

Boston University

Focus on Mathematics
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
111 Cummington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



August 28, 2011

Marty Schecter, President
The Retirees' School Volunteer Association
5 Dickens Lane
Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Dear Mr. Schecter

I am sending this letter of appreciation for the important contribution of time and energy from four of your members. Ron Evett, Gerry Brody, Mike Adler, and Joel Kramer volunteered to judge two math fairs in Waltham on June 9, 2011. They spent the morning at McDevitt Middle School and the afternoon at the Kennedy Middle School. Their knowledge and expertise benefited our partnership, Focus on Math, and the students who participated in the math fairs. Our students enjoy talking about their approaches to problem solving with adults who work outside of the school. They get the opportunity to see how mathematics and logical reasoning are used in the work place. Positive activities such as this really make a difference in the way students view the study of mathematics.

The culminating activity of the spring math fair program is the Math Expo on the second Saturday in June. This year over 1000 projects were submitted for judging at local math fairs in seven communities. Ninety poster displays were selected and forwarded to the Math Expo at the Charles River Museum of Industry in Waltham, MA. The event was well attended by the students, their families and friends, as well museum visitors who discovered our event. These community members, as well as our students, enjoyed the event and gained an awareness of the importance of mathematics in everyday life.

We understand that RSVA and its members have many requests for volunteer help. In addition to helping students, this in-kind contribution helps us meet the requirements of the of the National Science Foundation grant that supports Focus on Math. We cannot thank these gentlemen enough for taking time out of their busy schedules to work with the teenagers who participated in this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Herlihy".

Eileen Herlihy
Focus on Math
Math Fair/Math Expo Coordinator