Math League News

■ **Our Calculator Rule** Our contests allow both the TI-89 and HP-48. You may use any calculator without a QWERTY keyboard.

■ **Our Internet Score Center** All students whose scores you report must have been tested at the exact same time. Don't list students from any later class period. Instructions for submitting scores appear on each contest envelope. About 3 weeks after a contest, scores appear on our Web site, *www.mathleague.com*. Late scores must be accompanied by a brief explanation of the reason for lateness.

■ **Send Your Comments** to comments@mathleague.com

■ **Contest Dates** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are Nov 28 (21), Jan 9 (2), Feb 6 (Jan 30), Mar 6 (Feb 27), & Apr 10 (3). (Each alternate date is the preceding Tuesday.) For vacations, special testing days, or other *known* disruptions of the normal school day, please *give the contest on an earlier date*. If your scores are late, please submit a brief explanation. We reserve the right to refuse late scores lacking an explanation. We sponsor an *Algebra Course I Contest* in April, as well as contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. See *www.mathleague.com* for information.

■ **Not Yet Received Your HS Contest Package?** Phone 1-201-568-6328 so we can reship. If you just recently got the contests, *please take Contest #1 as soon as possible, even if it's late!*

■ **Carefully Check Your Contest Package** Without opening any contest envelope, please check that the remaining envelopes are numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. If you're missing a contest envelope, e-mail *dan(at)mathleague.com* with your name, the school's name, the full school address, and the number of the contest envelope you're missing. We'll mail you another set of contests right away.

■ **Eligibility Rules** Only students officially registered as students at your school may participate. That's our rule.

■ **Authentication of Scores** To give credibility to our results, we authenticate scores high enough to win recognition. Awards indicate compliance with our rules. Please have students read the *Selected Math League Rules* on the back of this sheet and then sign a sheet to confirm knowledge of the rules. *Keep* the signed copies. Do *not* send them to us unless we request authentication from you.

■ **Our Score Report Center** Roger Finnell said "267 kids took the first contest. I do not have time to submit all 267 scores. . . . what should I do?" *Additional names may be added at any time, but unless the student will be one of the League's top scoring students, it is not important to have a result entered for every contest. You may add names as needed.* John Burnette said "The new score submission Web page rocks." Bruce Baacke wrote "Thank you so much for updating the scoring area. It makes submission of scores extremely easy." Wendy Lamb said "I filled out the form on the envelope with the top scores, as we used to do" (and she then reported them online). Dean Ballard said "I like the new score entry system. More compact, individual by kids, and immediate feedback. Good work!" Douglas Dalman said "I really like this new way of submitting scores." Brook Randal said she "likes the new scoring a lot. It is easy to use and will make my record keeping easy. Thanks!" Mary Buda said "Your scoring program takes a lot longer than last year's, but thanks for running the program." Mary E. Cote said "I like the new score submission Web page." Jacqueline Coulas said "I love the new method of entering scores. This is so much simpler for keeping track of cumulative scores. Thanks for the change." Gin Sellers said "Last year's form was much easier."

■ **General Comments About the Contest** Linda Behnke said "The first contest was fun." Rob Frenchick said "Thanks for having a first contest that gave lots of kids chances to score, but had enough tough questions to separate the best students." Patricia Leach said "I offer the contest in the morning for official score reporting and after school for unofficial reporting." Tim Smith said "I love the contests, but haven't had a 6 in quite a spell. I really enjoy the solutions to 5 and 6 this time." Charles Sturtevant said "The last two problems were very nasty considering that this was the first contest of the year. Other than that, keep up the good work." Deanna Buuck said "This was our first attempt. As word got around the school, kids got excited about the next contest." John Burnette said "Thanks for a great first contest. I love when the kids (and I) learn new ideas!" James Burton said "Usually the first contest is much more attainable to give everyone a good start." Keith Calkins said "This contest had a good selection of problems the students could actually understand, which is good for a first contest." Patrick Neville said "The questions were an excellent mixture of difficulty, with #6 requiring not only a good sense of direction, but a fair amount of slogging it out as well. Keep up the fine work." Lee Braem said he is happy to be offering the contests again at his new school. Fred G. Harwood said "Thanks for such an entertaining set of questions." Cynthia Tesdall wrote "We are excited to participate this year." Mary E. Cote said "On every contest, all students are able to do some of the questions correctly. That encourages them to keep learning." Susan Kohnowich has 103 kids participate in a school of 830. Each kid gets a candy taped to their contest, with correct answers written on the back. At year end, there are t-shirts, certificates, and plaques. GREAT JOB! Joe Griesback said "Thanks for another great set of interesting and challenging problems." Susan Cantey said "Boy, this was a tough one!" George Reuter said "Thanks for a super contest."

■ **Problem 1-2: Comment** Sharon Lomison said "I *cannot* believe how many kids missed this question!"

■ **Problem 1-3: Comments** Keith Calkins, Mike Reiners, & Tracy Diestelmeier objected to a problem in which the answer is one of only two choices. Lee Braem and Keith Calkins found the wording confusing. (We agree! The word "both" was the culprit.)

■ **Problem 1-4: Alt. Solution** Dick Gibbs said "The (white) top & bottom both have surface area 25. The (dotted) right & left both have surface area $25+9 = 34$, and the (black) front & back both have surface area $25+9+4 = 38$." That's one great solution!

■ **Problem 1-6: Alt. Solution** Laniel Gibson took the natural log of both sides, and solved the result graphically. George Reuter said "I was glad to have solved 1-6 with nothing more than the laws of exponents. Though none of my students solved it, they were all able to appreciate the beauty of the properties used."

Statistics / Contest #1

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

Prob #	%	Prob #	%
1-1	93%	1-4	60%
1-2	52%	1-5	21%
1-3	51%	1-6	4%