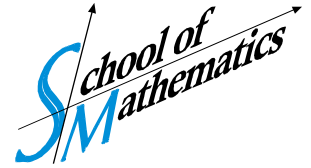


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Dear Parents,

The second semester is well underway and we are already in the middle of January. On behalf of the MWSM new management team, I would like to thank all of you for the continuous support for our school during the transition time and share with you the school news.

We have lots of good news to report. We have started this semester with 162 students. We have welcomed many new students and students who have decided to re-enroll after initial hesitation last November. The review of our program has indicated that we stand very closely to the Russian School of Mathematics (RSM) program both with respect to student achievement and curriculum alignment. Our goal is to have our program even closer aligned with RSM given their successful 11 years of experience teaching children. Graduates of RSM are among the students of the most prestigious universities such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, Brown, Cornell, and many more (<http://russianschool.com/alumini.html>). This all has become possible because of the solid foundation of this program and its methodology. We are sure that when time comes, your children will be admitted to the schools of their dreams.

In the meantime, here are the more immediate **academic** and **organizational announcements**:

MID-YEAR ORAL ASSESSMENT FOR GRADES K-3: Last week we completed the **mid-year oral assessment**. Its main goal was to determine whether the students are at the level expected by this time of the year according to our curriculum. There are two main goals of the test: determination whether the class as a whole needs any curriculum adjustments, and whether any students are in need of either additional help or a placement adjustment. We invited early education specialists from RSM to run these tests with a secondary goal of comparing the level of our younger students to that of RSM. We are glad to report that we found all of our K-3 classes at the right level, and our classes and teachers got high marks in these tests from our RSM colleagues.

MID-YEAR DIRECTOR'S TESTS FOR GRADES 4 AND UP: We also completed **mid-year Directors tests** for our older students. Again, the main goal of these tests was to identify the need of any curriculum adjustments, as well as to make necessary placement recommendations. We found that overall our classes have achieved very good results. We also identified several areas needing improvement in our Pre-Algebra and

Introduction to Algebra classes, and curriculum adjustments necessary to address those areas are already being implemented. However, overall we are pleased to report that we have found that our students are making strong progress, and we are proud of their achievements.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT: Although the detailed individual assessment was not the primary goal of these tests, we have compiled individual data on each child's performance during the tests. Our teachers use this data to fine-tune their instruction to the individual needs of the children. If our Director of Education Anna Charny has not contacted you regarding placement adjustment for your child, that means that we feel no adjustment is required, and your children's needs can be addressed within their current classroom. However, if you have specific questions or concerns about your child's performance, please do not hesitate to contact your teacher or Anna Charny at any time. Finally, looking ahead, we expect to perform a series of year-end assessments, this time targeting more detailed individual student performance evaluation by the year-end. You should expect a detailed report of your child's performance at the end of the school year.

AMC8 RESULTS: We would like to congratulate several of our students who participated in American Mathematics Competition (AMC8). Special congratulations to Alok Narahari who has received the National Honor Roll Certificate and Second Place in his group. We are especially pleased that several of our younger students have chosen to participate in this competition. Jesse Michel and Roy Jackman, our Pre-Algebra students (both in the 5th grade in their respective schools) received Third Place in their group, having each solved 11 out of 25 problems - not a small feat for a competition targeted for the 8th graders! We encourage all of our students to participate next year, and we plan to incorporate some of the preparation for this competition into our classes starting next year.

TUITION: We would like to thank everybody who has paid the **TUITION** on time. We would also like to encourage you to do so, if you have not done it already. The school is a small enterprise and the tuition is our sole financial resource required for operation. There are two payment plans: bulk payment for the half of the year and monthly payment. If there is any uncertainty about the payment, please do not hesitate to consult with the administration. There are some people (not many) who still owe us for the first semester. **Please try to straighten your records by February 1, 2008.**

SNOW CANCELLATIONS AND MAKE-UP: The first snowstorm on January 14, 2008 has already caused us a school cancellation, which we were able to make it up on Monday, **January 21st**. We will shortly announce the make-up dates for the classes cancelled in December 2007. If your child cannot make the scheduled make-up class, please try to bring him in for the other class on the same level. You can find up to date schedule on our website: www.metrowestschool.com. Since the winter is far from over and unfortunately there is a big chance to have more snow storms, **please always check whether the school is in session either by calling us at (617) 851-3912 or checking the banner on the our website**. Please note the school weather cancellations will be announced by 1:00 pm.

DROP-OFF, PICK-UP POLICY AND PARKING OR RATHER LACK OF IT: You all are probably aware of the difficult situation we have found ourselves in terms of the parking. It is almost non-existent. We have received numerous complains from the neighbors about our parents' cars constantly blocking their driveways. This is absolutely unacceptable. We will try to adjust the schedule not to have all the classes starting and ending at the same time, but even when we have fewer cars near the school we should not cause problems for

anybody else. Please keep this in mind when you bring your son or daughter to the school. Please do not block the driveways on both sides of the school.

We also want to emphasize **the necessity for you to accompany your child, and especially children younger than 12 years old, to and from the school.** The school policy does not allow children to leave the building unaccompanied by an adult. If you cannot pick up your child on time, please ask him/her to wait for you either in the waiting room or in our office upstairs. We will start enforcing this policy more rigorously and will ask all our teachers to monitor kids getting in and out more closely. Some parents prefer to wait for their kids in the car. In this case, please sign the drop-off policy paper (attached).

SAFETY DURING THE BREAKS: You have probably noticed that we have installed a new fence around the perimeter of the school backyard preventing access to Rt9 and surrounding business and residential properties. As soon as the weather permits, we will allow our students to spend their breaks outside under the supervision of their teachers. This is our primary reason for asking you not to park your cars in the backyard.

CLASS HANDOUTS: We have received many questions why we are not distributing class handouts, so the parents can work with their kids at home. Well, we do. Every lesson each student receives at least 2 handouts: class work and homework. Students in our Pre-Algebra and above classes are the only exceptions. They receive packages at the beginning of each topic and expect to work with this package for a number of classes. In some instances, however, the younger kids may do some work in their notebooks. In this case, you can check their notes. Thus, our suggestion for you is to check whether your child has all expected materials before leaving the school and if something is missing, please do not hesitate to check with the teacher.

OFFICE: I have already mentioned the office. We do have an office on the second floor of the building – accessible via the staircase at the back of the building by the parent waiting room. Beginning this semester, we are establishing official office hours: Monday-Thursday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm with Dr. Charny, Boris Serebrennikov or me present there during these hours. However, if you want to meet a particular member of our management team, please try to schedule an appointment preferably by email. Our emails are: Anna@metrowestschool.com, Boris@metrowestschool.com, and Olga@metrowestschool.com.

SUMMER SCHOOL: Last item for today, but not least by any means. With all the snow around us, it is difficult even to think about summer. Well, all the snow will melt down eventually, but we need to do our planning way in advance. We plan to offer 6-week enrichment math program for children in all grades. Small classes will meet once a week in the evenings starting at the beginning of July 2008. The exact schedule is TBD. Please let us know if you have an interest to enroll your child to our summer program ASAP, so we can start planning accordingly.

I apologize for such a lengthy newsletter. There is so much to say and I am sure I still have missed to cover some important items. Well, we are here to stay, so you will hear from us rather frequently. We all are fully committed to provide your children with the outstanding program and will do everything possible to achieve this goal.

Best regards,

Olga Serebrennikov
MWSM Co-Director, Parents Relations