



## 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.

■ **Use the Internet to View Scores or Send Comments** to [comments@mathleague.com](mailto:comments@mathleague.com). You can see your results at [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com).

■ **Upcoming Contest Dates & Rescheduling Contests** Contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are February 11 (February 18) and March 11 (March 18). If **vacations, school closings, or special testing days** interfere, please reschedule the contest. Attach a brief explanation, or scores will be considered unofficial. We sponsor an *Algebra Course I Contest* and contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Get information and sample contests at [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com).

■ **2014-2015 Contest Dates:** We schedule the six contests to be held four weeks apart (mostly) and to end in March. Next year's contest (and alternate) dates, all Tuesdays, are October 14 (Oct. 21), November 11 (Nov. 18), December 9 (Dec. 16), January 13 (Jan. 20), February 10 (Feb. 17), and March 17 (Mar. 24). Have a testing or other conflict? Now is a good time to put an alternate date on calendar!

■ **What Do We Publish?** Did we not mention your name? *We use everything we have when we write the newsletter.* But we write the newsletter early, so sometimes we're unable to include items not received early enough. We try to be efficient! Sorry to those whose solutions were too "late" to use.

■ **T-Shirts Anyone?** We're often asked, "are T-shirts available? The logo lets us recognize fellow competitors!" Good news — we have MATH T-shirts in a variety of sizes at a **very** low price. Use them as prizes for high or even perfect scores, or just to foster a sense of team spirit! The shirts are of grey material and feature a small, dark blue logo in the "alligator region." A photo of the shirt is available at our website. There's one low shipping charge per order, regardless of order size. To order, use our website, [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com).

■ **Contest Books Make A Great Resource** Have you seen our contest books? Kids love to work on past contests. To order, use our website, [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com).

■ **Error on Contest #6 (March 11)** There is an error on question #6-6 on High School Contest 6 scheduled for March 11. Please write on the outside of contest envelope #6 that for Question #6 students should replace "2014" with "the fourth root of 2014." No other change is necessary in the question. Please do not open contest envelope #6 until the contest date. Approximately two weeks before the official contest date, we will email school contacts a pdf with the corrected contest and a corrected solutions sheet. On the contest date, the contest administrator may either instruct the

students to make the correction written on the outside of contest envelope #6 OR the contest administrator may make copies of the revised contest from the corrected pdf and use these copies with the students. The solutions sheet inside contest envelope #6 should be replaced with the corrected pdf of the solutions.

■ **Administer This Year's Contests Online** Any school that is registered for any of our contests for the 2013-2014 school year may now register at <http://online.mathleague.com> for the 2013-2014 Online Contests at no cost. The advantages of administering the online versions of our contests rather than the paper and pencil ones are that you do not have to grade your students' papers and that you do not have to submit any scores at our Score Report Center ~ these tasks are done automatically for you when your students take our contests online. If you decide to use this free service, you must set up your account and set the day you are going to administer each contest at least one day in advance of the actual contest date.

■ **General Comments About Contest #4:** Marc Luce said, "A good, challenging contest! Most of my students felt this contest was a bit tougher than the previous contests this year." Joanne Gillette said, "This was a very difficult contest. I was able to convince some new students to try contest 4. I don't know if many of them will come back for contest 5. They were frustrated. (Contest 6 should be the toughest.)" James Buck said, "This was the hardest contest for our students in at least the past 5 years." Margaret Hofert said, "I had some trouble with the syntax in a couple problems. In #1 in my first reading, I kept thinking - the product of what? It took me a while to realize it had to be the product of the pairs, not the whole list. In problem 4 I thought at first that 'least' meant it had to be the smallest one, so the small side couldn't be isosceles or equilateral. In #5, I read it a couple of times before realizing 'whose sum' referred to the whole list of integers - I was reading 'the least possible value...whose sum' and it didn't make sense at first."

■ **Question 4-3: Alternate Solution** A student sent in his alternate solution to Question 4-3, for which he simply assumed that the rates of the three runners were 10 km/hr, 8 km/hr, and 6 km/hr respectively. This assumption allowed him to calculate how long it would have taken Second Runner to finish the race, and then how far Third Runner would have gone in that amount of time.

### Statistics / Contest #4

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

4-1	92%	4-4	23%
4-2	49%	4-5	14%
4-3	40%	4-6	13%