



Dear Mathematics Colleague,

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1. The Plus Magazine (Mathematics Internet magazine)

Plus is an internet magazine which aims to introduce readers to the practical applications and beauty of mathematics. Plus provides feature articles, which describe applications of maths to real-world problems, games, and puzzles and much more...

Plus is part of the Millennium Mathematics Project, a long term national initiative based in Cambridge and active across the UK and internationally. The MMP aims to help people of all ages and abilities share in the excitement of mathematics and understand the enormous range and importance of its applications to everyday life. It works to change people's attitudes to maths, to act as a national focus for renewing and improving appreciation of the dynamic importance of maths and its applications, and to demonstrate the vital contribution of maths to shaping the everyday world.

<http://plus.maths.org/index.html>

2. Problem-Solving Strategies for Efficient and Elegant Solutions

Alfred S. Posamentier and Stephen Krulik have written an excellent resource book for mathematics teachers. The book is a collection of examples which illustrate each strategy. They start by applying each strategy to an everyday problem situation then consider its application in a mathematical setting. The strategies include:

1. Working backwards
2. Finding a pattern
3. Adopting a different point of view
4. Solving a simpler, analogous problem
5. Considering extreme cases
6. Making a drawing (visual representation)
7. Intelligent guessing and testing (including approximation)
8. Accounting for all possibilities (exhaustive listing)
9. Organizing data
10. Logical reasoning

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[Go to amazon.com](#)

Prices start around \$18.50
for a used copy
(in good condition)

3. Maths Video

This 26 minute video showcases a new book by John Barrow, professor of mathematics at Cambridge University. The book is entitled *Cosmic Imagery*, and contains images that have changed science, and how we have viewed science, over the centuries.

To download the enhanced podcast to your computer and for playing on your MP4 player (QuickTime Player), right-click on the link on a PC or ctrl-click it on a Mac.

4. The New Natural Display Calculator

In the last newsletter I mentioned a new calculator that will soon be released. As you see it has the same layout as the Casio fx82ES but is expected to be a lot more affordable. Hopefully it will be available by the end of 2008.

5. NCTM *ILLUMINATIONS* Activities

Illuminations is an Internet based resource centre designed to:

- Provide Standards-based resources that promote the teaching and learning of mathematics for all students.
- Provide materials that illuminate the vision for school mathematics.

As is the case with so many of these resources (java applets) – you will need a fast Internet connection.

All the best for the final term.

Sincerely,

Alan Bowen

Founder (Shapes and Sizes)

Visit www.shapesandsizes.co.za for more info.

[Download video](#)

Take note... 97.6MB

Right click and select
Save Target As...

...Then go cut the lawn ☺



[http://illuminations.nctm.org/
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