Ontario GSP4 Newsletter #2
Fall 2003

Welcome to the second Ontario GSP4 Newsletter. Ontario is uniquely blessed to have a provincial license for all publicly-funded K-12 schools and Faculties of Education. The recent upgrade from GSP3 to GSP4 has opened whole new worlds of possible uses for Ontario mathematics teachers and students. This issue highlights:

- Summer 2003 Workshop Highlights
- TIPS GSP4 resources
- Upgrade information
- Online Resources

GSP4 Summer 2003 Workshops

This summer, two GSP4 workshops were held in Kingston and Toronto. A small, dedicated group of grades 6 – 12 mathematics teachers spent two days exploring the power and potential of GSP4. Each participant received a copy of either the Exploring Calculus with GSP4 Resource book or the ShapeMakers resource book (see www.spectrumed.com).

Participants sharing a light moment with the beautiful apple iBook computers that were so generously loaned to us for the GSP4 workshop at Spectrum Educational in Newmarket.





Participants pondering deep mathematical thoughts at the Kingston GSP4 workshop.

TIPS GSP4 Resources

The GSP4 files associated with the TIPS resource are now available online at http://www.curriculum.org/occ/tips/downloads.shtml

On this site, you will find:

Grade 7

- The Gazebo (43kB .gsp file)

Grade 8

- Pythagorean Relationship (56kB .gsp file)

Grade 9

- Introduction to Geometer's Sketchpad (31kB .gsp file)
- 4.1.1: Plane Geometry (68kB .gsp file)
- 4.2.2: What's So Special? (106kB .gsp file)
- Exterior Angle Demonstration (17kB .gsp file)
- Sum of the Interior Angles of a Quadrilateral (22kB .gsp file)
- Exterior Angles (34kB .gsp file)
- Map (2.1MB .gsp file)
- Mystery Points (9kB .gsp file)
- Triangles (33kB .gsp file)
- Exploring Triangles (20kB .gsp file)
- Diagonals (16kB .gsp file)
- Measure (42kB .gsp file)
- Quadrilaterals (24kB .gsp file)
- Cones (10kB .gsp file)

These files are an excellent starting point for teachers and students. They allow students and teachers to have more productive and mathematically worthwhile first experiences with GSP4. Rather than starting with a blank page and following a long list of tedious instructions, students and teachers begin immediately manipulating, reasoning and communicating about meaningful mathematical models.

I strongly recommend teachers download these excellent files and try them with your students.

ENO Online Math Discussion Group

The Education Network of Ontario's has a mathematics discussion group and curriculinks web page moderated by Gord Cooke. In December, Gord will be featuring on line tutorials and sample pages using JavaSketchpad in web pages.

How can you participate?

- Go to www.enoreo.on.ca
- Get a login and password which is free for all educators in Ontario
- Join Gord in the eno.ped.across.math newsgroup

GSP4.05 Upgrade

Download the latest GSP4 upgrade from:
http://www.keypress.com/sketchpad/produpdates.html

GSP4 Resource Corner

Ontario GSP4 Summit Files
http://hydra.educ.queensu.ca/sketchmad/Summit/

JAVA GSP4
www.vlearning.ca

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Spring 2004

If you wish to share any GSP4 resources, stories or ideas, please email them to tom@vlearning.ca by February 28, 2004.

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