22 July 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Number Crunchers is an initiative of Sydney Region DET. The idea started with the "Golden Pi" competition run at Sylvania High School in 2008 with a community of four schools. This was extended in 2009 into the Sydney Region "Maths Bee" with another Community of Schools from the Peakhurst area. The 2010 competition, with the backing of Dr Phil Lambert, our Regional Director, expanded to 20 schools and featured an exciting Grand Final last November at the Powerhouse Museum. This year, the competition is again expanding to include many more schools. The event will culminate in the Grand Final at the Powerhouse Museum hosted by Adam Spencer.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

Students in Years 6 and 7 from each participating school (primary and secondary) complete FIVE weekly rounds of written questions.

**Students have 10 minutes to complete each quiz.** They involve both multiple choice and free response questions. These rounds will become available each week of the competition.

Results from each round are collated at the school level and when all five rounds are completed, the top five students from each school will compete at the Cluster Final at their local high school venue. Students from each school will be selected to represent their school at the Powerhouse Museum in November.

The achievements of the top performing students in each school after the five rounds are recognised in-school by the presentation of certificates and or trophies on school assemblies, thereby raising the profile of Mathematics in each school and celebrating student achievement.

The Grand Final at the Powerhouse Museum will have a format similar to a "Spelling Bee", with answers calculated mentally and given in spoken form.

The last student standing still giving correct solutions will be acknowledged as the Number Cruncher Champion for 2011.

Two related competitions feature in the Powerhouse final: The Golden Pi Challenge sees the winner reciting Pi to the most decimal places. The Rubik's Cube Challenge has competitors solving their jumbled cubes in the fastest time. Competitors are nominated by schools participating in Number Crunchers.
Connells Point Public School will be involved in this competition for the first time. Year 6 students interested in competing will complete the quizzes on the following days for 10 minutes at lunchtime: Monday 25 July, Tuesday 2 August, Wednesday 3 August, Tuesday 9 August, Wednesday 17 August, Wednesday 24 August.

There is also an opportunity for students to compete in the Pi Challenge and the Rubik’s Cube Challenge. Please note that the current record for the Pi challenge is reciting Pi to over 500 decimal places!!!

**Important points for parents:**
* Once the final five are selected I will work with them during lunchtime to help with their speed and accuracy
* students who finish in the top five may need to have private transport to and from Moorefields Girls High for the cluster final this term (date to be confirmed - possibly in weeks 7-10)
* the students who finish in the top five will be part of the audience at the final at the Powerhouse Museum to support our first place getter. Travel to the Powerhouse Museum may also require private transport.

If your son/daughter is interested in the maths quiz component and/or the Pi and Rubik’s Cube Challenge they are to complete the form below and give to Miss Benson by the morning of Monday 25 July.

This is a great experience for the students and I am looking forward to the challenge.

Miss J. Benson                  Mrs A. Hewson
Extension Maths Co-Ordinator    Principal

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**Expression of Interest-Number Crunchers 2011**

My son/daughter _____________ of class _________ is interested in participating in:

☐ Number Crunchers
☐ Pi Challenge
☐ Rubik’s Cube Challenge

I understand that, if successful, they may need to be privately transported to finals events.

Signed ____________________     Date: _______