

# Mathematical Happenings. (February 2010)

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## Secondary Numeracy Project.

This year we have joined a contract with the Ministry of Education to begin the Secondary Numeracy Project, focusing on our Year 9 classes. The Mathematics teachers are undergoing professional development in order to individually interview all the Year 9 girls to assess where each one is in their journey towards being fully numerate. From there the classroom teaching should be able to better meet the learning needs of each student. Staff wide professional development is also underway to ensure that there is a clear understanding that we are all teachers of numeracy, just as we are all teachers of literacy. Dispelling the notion of “I don’t do maths” is a key point in improving individuals’ attitude towards working with numbers. Already we are seeing numeracy portrayed in a positive manner in curriculum areas where it previously may have been rarely mentioned.

*Dispelling the notion of  
“I don’t do maths” is  
key in improving  
attitudes towards  
working with numbers*

*“We are ALL teachers of Literacy and Numeracy”*

## Scholarship Success

Congratulations to our Dux from 2009, Stephanie Gamble who gained a scholarship pass in Mathematics with Calculus (and also in Physical Education). It has been some time since our last Scholarship in Calculus. We have high expectations this coming year with the first of our accelerate class students being ready to sit the scholarship examination this year in Calculus and in Statistics.

## Homework books and Calculators

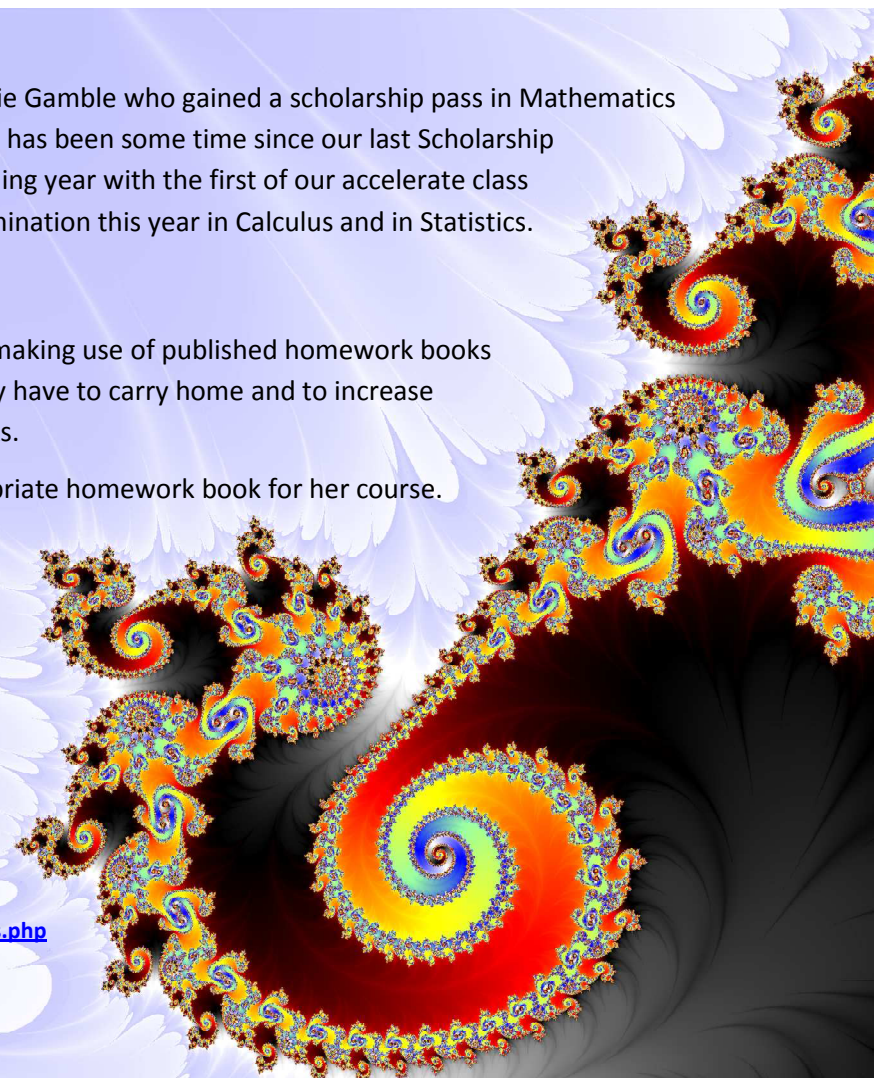
At every level of Mathematics students will be making use of published homework books in order to reduce the weight of books that they have to carry home and to increase the usable lifespan of the class sets of text books.

It is essential that your daughter has the appropriate homework book for her course. All these homework books can be purchased through Student Services.

It is also essential for your daughter to have a scientific calculator. For Years 9 & 10 the CASIO FX82 models or SHARP EL531 models are preferred.

Once your daughter has a calculator it would be useful for her to bring it to class every day.

<http://npgsmathematics.volasite.com/homeworkbooks.php>



## Algebra Certificate

Following on from a successful inaugural year in 2009 the Mathematics Department is again running the Algebra Certificate programme in Years 9 & 10. Our aim is to increase your daughter's Algebra skills and quality of work when solving equations. The particular focus is not just to find the correct answer to a problem but to communicate the working very clearly. There is more than one valid method for finding the correct answer but the entire Department has decided upon ONE

CONSISTENT FORMAT for answering the questions THAT THE STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW. So in order to gain good results for this scheme your daughter needs to follow the prescribed method of working.

Throughout the year Algebra will be taught alongside or in conjunction with the current topics in class. Your daughter will be regularly given Algebra homework questions to be completed in a 3B1 notebook that she has been provided with for this purpose. Once each month she will sit a 10-question proficiency test that will generate her Algebra Rating. This rating will be calculated as a running average of her test scores (excluding her lowest score) and will be recorded to 1 decimal place. Obviously the highest rating will be 10.0 and I am sure there will be many girls trying to achieve and maintain that score through the year. In order to keep her Algebra Rating high your daughter will need to answer the questions USING THE METHOD SHE HAS BEEN SHOWN.

We believe that by consistently utilising this method we will see a marked increase in the girls' algebraic abilities. High quality certificates will be designed and printed with images relating to Mathematics or our school.

**In 2009 8 girls gained certificates with perfect Algebra Ratings of 10.0 and a further 72 gained Gold Certificates.**

The criteria for earning certificates are:

- Gold Certificate: An Algebra Rating of 9.0 or higher from at least 8 tests
- Silver Certificate: An Algebra Rating of 7.0 to 8.9 from at least 5 tests
- Basic Certificate: An Algebra Rating of 5.0 to 6.9 from at least 5 tests.

Please support your daughter by encouraging her to attempt the regular homework questions in order to prepare for the monthly proficiency test.

### Competitions Coming Up

World Maths Day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Free

Log on to [www.worldmathsday.com](http://www.worldmathsday.com)

