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## **BAY AREA STUDENTS COMPETE FOR \$1500 IN MATH CONTEST**

PROVIDENCE, RI—Eight East Bay Area high school students will have the chance to convert their math knowledge into hard cash when they compete in *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician*, Wednesday April 5 at 11:00 a.m. at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley.

Contestants can win up to \$1500 in cash by answering multiple choice mathematics questions. In addition, winners will participate in a Bay Area Championship game that same day against previous winners from the West Bay area. There is \$5000 available to be won in the Championship game.

Contestants:

Stav Braun (Santa Cruz High School), Di Di (Davis Senior High), Joshua LaJeunesse (Livermore High), Xingfu Liang (Piedmont High), Matt Smith (Valley Christian High, San Jose), Frederick Wang (Arroyo High, San Lorenzo), Jay Wang (Foothill High, Pleasanton), and Robert Warren (Winters High).

Prior to the game at 10:00 there will be a math talk by Vaughan Jones, of the University of California, Berkeley, entitled “What’s a Knot?”. Jones is a Fields Medalist (sometimes called the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize), Honorary Vice President for life of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, and a passionate wind surfer.

The talk and contest are free and open to the public, and will be held in Simons Auditorium in Chern Hall (see [http://www.msri.org/about/directions/index\\_html](http://www.msri.org/about/directions/index_html) for directions) at MSRI. The games should end around 12:30.

Game sponsors are Maplesoft, Texas Instruments, John Wiley & Sons, and the AMS.

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*Founded in 1888 to further mathematical research and scholarship, the 30,000-member American Mathematical Society fulfills its mission through programs and services that promote mathematical research and its uses, strengthen mathematical education, and foster awareness and appreciation of mathematics and its connections to other disciplines and to everyday life.*