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'S.F. Math Circle Day' Honors Extraordinary After-School Education Program

SAN FRANCISCO (May 3, 2006) – Mayor Gavin Newsom declared Wednesday “San Francisco Math Circle Day” to honor a remarkable after-school program for the city’s most promising mathematics students.

The Math Circle program brings together motivated students and their teachers each Wednesday to solve problems beyond anything they can do in regular classrooms. This week, at the final Math Circle of the school year, the Mayor’s education advisor Hydra Mendoza will work with the students as well as present the city proclamation honoring the program. Daisy Dominguez, Manager, Community Programs for The Moody’s Foundation in New York, will be present with gifts of books and goodies for the students. “We are extremely proud that the San Francisco Math Circle has attracted more than 130 really excited math students this year, including many African American and Hispanic students who often are under-represented in enrichment programs,” said Paul Zeitz, director of the program. “The Math Circle is a real success.”

The Math Circle is presented by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute and sponsored by grants from The Moody’s Foundation and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. Its unique approach pays San Francisco teachers to select the Math Circle students, bring the students to the Math Circle sessions, and meet in their own circle for continuing education credit during the sessions themselves. This has resulted in a vastly more diverse representation of students than any other Math Circle in the country or than traditional after-school academic programs. Instructors are math professors from eight universities, including UC Berkeley, Stanford, USF and UCLA.

“The San Francisco Math Circle challenges ordinary middle school kids to excel and love mathematics,” said David Eisenbud, director of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute. “It is thrilling to see these young minds grow passionate about math and solve intricate problems.”

The Math Circle’s final session of the 2005-06 academic year, in Room 241-B on the University of San Francisco’s Lone Mountain campus, begins May 3 at 4:15 p.m.

MSRI is one of the world’s premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year.

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