

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2010

Media Advisory

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San Francisco Math Circle welcomes SFUSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia to the first after-school meeting of students in the fall semester

- **WHAT** – The **San Francisco Math Circle (SFMC)** begins its sixth year of free, weekly after-school enrichment for students in grades 6-12 at three San Francisco locations: Mission High School, San Francisco State University, and Thurgood Marshall Academic High School. The SFMC meetings are informal and the atmosphere is fun, intensive, and playful. The students find camaraderie working collectively as well as individually and they cover topics in depth that are not part of the standard math curriculum. The 2010-11 academic year is divided into 5 blocks of meetings (each ranging from 4-7 weeks long) on a certain topic; the initial block of meetings at SFMC this fall will concern mathematical codes.

The SFMC is run by professional mathematicians (university professors) and experienced instructor-mathematicians and lead teachers. The recruitment of students is teacher-driven: teachers are contacted and asked to encourage students who have a strong interest in math to attend SFMC. In addition, the program is designed to facilitate diversity and encompass students of varied backgrounds who may otherwise not have access to such opportunities, including the participation of students that are economically disadvantaged. Last year, over 300 students benefitted from the SFMC program—as well as 44 teachers, who participated in the “Circle for Teachers.” The program had an average weekly attendance of 57 students; moreover, at least an additional 2,250 students were influenced by the teachers’ participation in the program when they returned to their classrooms.

- **WHO** – **Superintendent Carlos Garcia**, of the San Francisco Unified School District, will visit the first weekly meeting of middle- and high-school students at the **San Francisco Math Circle** in the 2010 fall semester.
- **WHEN** – **MONDAY, September 13 at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm**
- **WHERE** – **Mission High School, 3750 18th Street, Room 332.** Parking is available in the parking lot located on school grounds that is off of Dolores Street.
- **SPONSORS** – The SFMC is a free program, generously supported by the following sponsors: [S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation](#), [The Moody’s Foundation](#), and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

ABOUT MSRI: The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, <http://www.msri.org>), in Berkeley, California, is one of the world’s preeminent 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 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 80 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and more than 90 academic institutions. The MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual *Critical Issues in Mathematics Education* conferences for educators, math circles, the National Association for Math Circles (NAMC) and its website, and Olympiad competitions, in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program, and in public education through its “Conversations” series of public events.