

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory

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National Math Circles website gets launched at Portland's *MathFest* conference After-school math groups joined together by online portal to educational resources

- **WHAT** – National Association of Math Circles (NAMC) website gets its official launch! *MathFest*, the national educational conference sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), will host a special session on “Math Circles for Students and Teachers” where the NAMC website will receive its public debut. A math circle, generally, is an enrichment experience—many are free-of-charge—that enables mathematics professionals (often math professors from universities nearby) to meet regularly with middle- and high-school students, and/or their teachers, and teach math topics in an informal after-school setting. The circles engage students’ curiosity and foster an enthusiasm to explore more math, in greater depth. The math circles website functions as a dynamic resource for the community of 58 math circles in over 20 states nationwide and also provides an entry point for potential circle organizers with a how-to-guide entitled, *Circle in a Box*, about starting new math circles.

During this special *MathFest* session on math circles, the new website’s searchable archive of 1,000 math problems will be showcased, as well as highly useful listings of math-related events and various opportunities for students. In addition, a demonstration math circle class with students from the Portland area will take place during the afternoon session. *For a preview of the website, please visit: <http://www.mathcircles.org>*

- **WHEN** – **SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 2009: National Math Circles website demo from 3:40-3:55 pm;** *MathFest* special session on Math Circles for Students and Teachers runs from 1-5 pm.
- **WHERE** – **The Eugene Room at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, 1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR** (503.226.7600; see <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pdxor-portland-marriott-downtown-waterfront/>)
- **WHO** – **DR. BRANDY WIEGERS**, MSRI Assistant Program Manager, and **JOSHUA ZUCKER**, Director of MSRI’s Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival, will demonstrate the new math circles website’s capabilities.
- **SPONSOR** – The **Akamai Foundation** has generously supported the development of the NAMC website. The Akamai Foundation, established in 2000 by Akamai Technologies, Inc. (NASDAQ: AKAM), and funded solely through donations from Akamai employees and individuals outside the company, promotes mathematics education in grades K-12. The Akamai Foundation is dedicated to excellence in mathematics, with the aim of promoting math’s importance and encouraging America’s next generation of technology innovators. (See www.akamai.com/html/about/foundation.html.)

The NAMC is a project of the **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, <http://www.msri.org>)**, in Berkeley, California. The MSRI 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 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.