

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume LII No. 1 Aug./Sept. 2022

Weird Ways to Work with Pi

(And have you noticed that the spelling of “weird” is weird?)

September Speaker James Tanton



At the Des Plaines Elks Club:

Friday, September 16, 2022

Doors Open/Social Hour: 6:00 PM

Dinner & Talk: 7:00 PM

Des Plaines Elks Club

495 Lee Street, Des Plaines

\$35 for Members, \$40 for Nonmembers

Reserve by noon, Monday, September 12

Online at mmcchicago.org

MMC is delighted to have James Tanton joining us in September. We will investigate pi in *Weird Ways to Work with Pi* (*And have you noticed that the spelling of “weird” is weird?*). Many a mathematical scholar has contemplated the meaning and mystery of the number pi: the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. But I ask: Who said the concept of “pi” should apply only to circles? What is pi for a square? What is pi for a right triangle? What interesting non-circular problems can be solved with non-circular pi-values? Let’s get weird and quirky and let pi loose on all kinds of wild shapes!

James Tanton (PhD, Princeton 1994, Mathematics) writes books, makes math videos and video courses, advises on curriculum, consults with teachers, and gives demonstration classes and professional development sessions across the globe. He has taught mathematics both at university and high-school institutions and is absolutely committed to promoting effective and joyful mathematics thinking, learning, and doing at all levels of the education spectrum.

James is an ambassador for the Mathematical Association of America in Washington D.C. and a founder of the Global Math Project, an initiative to transform the entire world’s perception of what mathematics can, and should, be. This program has now reached over 7 million students and teachers across the planet.

In addition to the dinner meeting, James will also be presenting a Saturday morning workshop. He will share *Patterns: What to Do If You Trust Them and What to Do If You Don’t* at 9:00 a.m. at Glenbrook South High School on September 17. More information can be found on the MMC website. Preregistration is required. Space is limited.

Points from the Interior

by Laura Kaplan

As I write this, it is late July and I have just gotten home from the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Conference in Grand Rapids, and I am looking forward to the Metro Chicago Math Initiative (MCMI) virtual conference next week. The fact that both of these are now regular occurrences strikes me as a unique sign of the times.

I have enjoyed the plethora of virtual professional development opportunities over the past two and a half years. The virtual options have the benefit of being less expensive, even free in many cases. Virtual conferences and webinars allow me to expand my experience without the expense and logistics of travel. I have “attended” events in Hawaii, Australia, and England, all of which would have been out of reach if I had to be there in person. The fact that high quality professional development can now reach more people at a lesser cost is definitely a win for everyone.

Having said that, as more and more in-person events are made available every month, I am reminded of how much I appreciate being in the same room with educators that I don't teach with. Having those serendipitous conversations about mathematics education and hearing a different perspective from what you hear every day is an invaluable part of these in-person events. While at the PLC conference, I had conversations with teachers from all over the country, all at different places in their PLC journey. These conversations gave me insight that the speakers, as great as they were, could not. The energy present at this conference (the first in-person conference I've been to since March of 2020) was intoxicating. Everyone on the team from my school was full of excitement about the year ahead. Watching a webinar alone in my living room would not have produced the same result. Of course, the human connection we are able to make is another priceless benefit of the in-person setting. There is so much to gain from that, even in the absence of math ed talk.

Clearly, there are strong cases to be made for both experiences. Here at MMC we are hoping to strike the right balance between the two as we continue to navigate the pandemic and rising costs. We have three in-person dinner meetings scheduled. The first is James Tanton, who will be at the Des Plaines Elks Club on September 16. Then we have three virtual dinner meetings scheduled, starting November 4 with our very own Peter DeCraene, followed by another of our very own, Annie Forest on December 9. Then coming to us from Texas via Zoom is Pam Harris on January 20. We will return to the Des Plaines Elks Club on March 3 with Scott Powers and wrap up the year again at the Elks Club on May 5 with Eugenia Cheng. Please check carefully where the meetings will be so that you know whether we are in person or on Zoom. We are hoping the mix of in-person and virtual meetings will help us meet the needs of all of our members. Be sure to come to some of the in-person meetings, as we carefully chose the speakers for those, and you don't want to miss out on the connections to your fellow math educators! I look forward to seeing you in September.



Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago

Affiliate of ICTM & NCTM

SAVE THE DATE!

MMC Virtual Conference

given *by teachers for teachers*

Saturday, February 4, 2023

8:30 am – 12:10 pm

OPTIONAL POST SESSION DISCUSSION

12:10 to 1:10 pm

Call for proposals will open in September.

Please consider being a presenter for 2023 or presenting with a co-speaker. Share this with your colleagues, and check the website for updates at www.mmccchicago.org.

2022-2023 MMC Dinner Meeting Incentive Programs

“Bring a Friend” Nights: Bring someone who has never attended an MMC dinner meeting, and introduce them to MMC! Both you and your guest(s) will receive \$5 off your dinner costs. There is a limit of 2 guests per meeting for the reduced cost, but you can still invite more people to come with you! This incentive is good for the September and March in-person meetings.

“New(er) Teacher” Program: Are you a teacher in your first 5 years of teaching? If so, you can take advantage of this incentive! Pick up a new(er) teacher card at registration and bring it back to be verified each time you attend a dinner meeting. Attend the first two in-person meetings this year, and get your 3rd in-person meeting at half price!

Thank you to our generous members who are sponsoring this program.

**Please be sure to register all attendees using the
reservations link on the website.**

**Mention the incentive when you check in at the meeting to take
advantage of these programs.**

Mark Your Calendars:

NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition
September 28-October 1
Los Angeles, CA

ICTM Annual Conference
October 29
NIU Conference Center in Naperville



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Aimee Hart, Past President
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Chicago Vocational Academy, Chicago

Mary Wiltjer (2022-2025)
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Follow MMC on Social Media!



Is your membership current? Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. You can renew by mail with the form below or renew in person at the next dinner meeting.

NAME		PREFERRED CONTACT Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	
HOME ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
HOME PHONE	HOME E-MAIL		
EMPLOYER			
WORK ADDR			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
WORK PHONE	WORK E-MAIL		
<small>ELECTRONIC-ONLY MEMBERSHIP</small> Check the box below for electronic-only membership. You will receive an email with a direct link to each issue of <u>Points & Angles</u> when it is posted on the web site, often before paper copies are mailed. You will no longer receive <u>Points & Angles</u> by mail. <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic-Only Membership		<small>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</small> Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year (\$35) <input type="checkbox"/> student*, 1 yr (\$22) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years (\$65) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st yr teacher*, 1 yr (\$22) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$90) <input type="checkbox"/> retired, 1 yr (\$28)	
<small>FORM USE</small> Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Former Member <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address		MEMBERSHIP COST \$	
<small>* The student and 1st-year teacher memberships are only available as electronic-only.</small>		DONATIONS	
		SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$	
		SPEAKER FUND \$	
		TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$	

MMC Membership and Change of Address Form
Mail completed form and check to:
MMC
1644 Portage Run
Glenview, IL 60025

Make check payable to **MMC**

Upcoming Events

- Fri., Sept. 16 James Tanton **Weird Ways to Work with Pi (And have you noticed that the spelling of “weird” is weird?)** (Des Plaines Elks Lodge)
- Sat., Sept. 17 James Tanton **Saturday Workshop—Patterns: What to Do If You Trust Them and What to Do If You Don’t** (Glenbrook South High School)
- Sept. 28-Oct. 1 **NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition** (Los Angeles)
- Sat., Oct. 29 **ICTM Annual Conference—Stronger Together** (NIU Conference Center in Naperville)
- Fri., Nov. 4 Peter DeCraene **Down the Rabbit Hole: Connecting Mathematics and Humanities** (via Zoom)
- Fri., Dec. 9 Annie Forest **Little Kids, Big Math: What a Secondary Math Teacher Learned from Elementary** (via Zoom)

Send upcoming event items to sburnett_308@yahoo.com no later than the date of the MMC dinner meeting preceding the issue in which the item should appear. All items are subject to editing.

Your membership renewal date appears in the upper right corner of the label



Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago

2022–2023 Program

September 16, 2022 — James Tanton

at Des Plaines Elks Club

Weird Ways to Work with Pi

(And have you noticed that the spelling of “weird” is weird?)

September 17, 2022 (Saturday Morning Workshop) — James Tanton

at Glenbrook South High School (9:00 a.m.)

Patterns: What to Do If You Trust Them and What to Do If You Don't

November 4, 2022 — Peter DeCraene

via Zoom

Down the Rabbit Hole: Connecting Mathematics and Humanities

December 9, 2022 — Annie Forest

via Zoom

Little Kids, Big Math:

What a Secondary Math Teacher Learned from Elementary

January 20, 2023 — Pam Harris

via Zoom

Reaching More Students in Less Time

February 4, 2023 — MMC Virtual Conference of Workshops

via Zoom

March 3, 2023 — Scott Powers

at Des Plaines Elks Club

The Evolution of Batting Statistics in Baseball

May 5, 2023 — Eugenia Cheng

at Des Plaines Elks Club

X+Y: A Mathematician's Manifesto for Rethinking Gender

Doors Open/Social Hour: 6:00 pm; Dinner and Talk: 7:00 pm

at Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL

Zoom talks begin at 7:00 p.m.

Make your reservations and special meal requests no later than the Monday before the meeting, if possible.

Reservations can be made online at www.mmchicago.org.

Check out the MMC website at www.mmchicago.org for more information.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MMCChicago/

Follow us on Twitter: [@MMCChicago](https://twitter.com/MMCChicago) and Instagram: [@mmchicago1913](https://www.instagram.com/mmchicago1913)

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