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# The Highest Common Factor

**March 2024**

## From the CEO's desk



Dear AAMT members, affiliates, stakeholders and friends,

Welcome to another AAMT newsletter. This newsletter is packed with information to connect you with resources, ideas, research articles and people who are, like you, doing exciting things in mathematics education.

It has been a busy start to the year for the team at AAMT. We have been working hard at putting together some exciting professional learning opportunities including a Study Tour to the US and Canada to visit some schools and attend the NCTM conference.

We've also been working on some other professional learning opportunities closer to home here in Australia with Peter Liljedahl, author of Building Thinking Classrooms.

Of course, this year is a year that many of us in the Mathematics Education Community have been looking forward to - it is the year of ICME-15 (International Congress on Mathematical Education). ICME-15 will be held in Sydney from 7th - 14th July this year. It is the first time since 1984 that ICME has been held in the Southern Hemisphere and I know that it will offer a fantastic opportunity to grow professionally and connect with other like minded individuals. If you haven't already, I encourage you to review the website and do all you can to attend. Details are available [here](#).

Early in April, we will host, in partnership with The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance (ATSIMA), a summit focussed on mathematics education for Indigenous students. This will see representatives from every state and territory affiliate across the country meet in Adelaide for two days to develop a Commitment Statement and form an Action Plan on the issues. We can and must do better on closing the gap in this area. Watch out for more information on the outcome of the summit from AAMT, ATSIMA and your local state/territory affiliate.

I hope you find this edition of the newsletter informative and useful. If you don't already, I encourage you to follow us on Social Media and sign up for our podcast - Strength in Numbers - a new season is coming soon.

In the meantime, have a relaxing Term 1 break.

Allan Dougan

CEO, AAMT Inc

## Planning for the School Year A Guide for Secondary School Mathematics Teachers



As a secondary school maths teacher, you face the unique challenge of making complex mathematical concepts accessible and engaging. As a new term begins, effective planning can be your game-changer.

From setting clear objectives to breaking down complex topics, from incorporating diverse teaching methods to effective assessment - planning is where success starts and ends.

Discover practical strategies and innovative ideas to bring maths alive in your classroom in our latest article. Dive in to transform your teaching experience!

**[Click here to read the article](#)**

### Focus on Maths Update

Our Focus on Maths program has already approved six grants to help disadvantaged primary and secondary schools enhance their maths teaching capacity through customised professional development projects that cater to their specific needs.

These schools are situated across Australia, from small schools in the most remote areas to large urban schools in very low-income communities. Despite their differences, all these schools have in common a team of dedicated teachers aiming to enhance students' maths outcomes through a well-defined vision and improvement strategy. If this sounds like your school, the deadline for the current application round is approaching on 14 April. For more information or to apply, please visit our website [here](#).

### MERGA - Teacher Reads



Teacher Reads are one-page extracts of research findings from MERGA conference papers. The purpose of Teacher Reads is to disseminate aspects of research that are meaningful to teachers, such as mathematical tasks, assessment tools, strategies for teaching, considerations for student learning, findings of research that may impact classroom practice, etc. We hope teachers will draw inspiration from these Reads and follow up with details from the conference papers for research-informed classroom practice. To read more click [here](#).

**[Click here to read \*Fractions on a Triple Number Line\*](#)**

## North American Study Tour Update

If you follow us on social media you will already know that we have opened registrations for our Study Tour to the NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition in the US. The tour is shaping up to be an incredible professional learning opportunity, bringing together maths teachers, leaders and researchers from six different states, to learn from internationally-renowned speakers, take part in workshops and observe schools in both Chicago and Calgary.

Our tour is close to capacity but we may have one or two spots remaining, so if you are able to travel between 23 September and 2 October and would like to find out more please get in touch by emailing Denise Halliday at [dhalliday@aamt.edu.au](mailto:dhalliday@aamt.edu.au). You need to act fast to have a chance to participate in this exceptional professional learning experience!

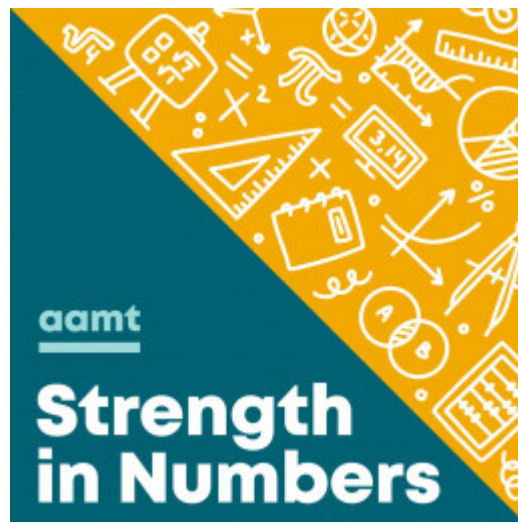
### **Strength in Numbers AAMT's Podcast**

Join us as we dive into the fascinating world of mathematics education with AAMT's podcast, Strength in Numbers.

Listen in as our host, Allan Dougan (*CEO, AAMT Inc.*), converses with a fabulous range of inspirational guests.

Be sure to subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#) or wherever you get your podcasts, if you haven't already!

[Click here to listen now!](#)



### **Exciting Maths300 News!**



If you're a current, previous or potential subscriber to Maths300, our suite of engaging investigative maths activities, we have exciting news! We're very pleased to announce that all Maths300 resources have been mapped to the new P-10 curricula, including AC v9.0, VC v2.0 and the new NSW Syllabus for Maths.

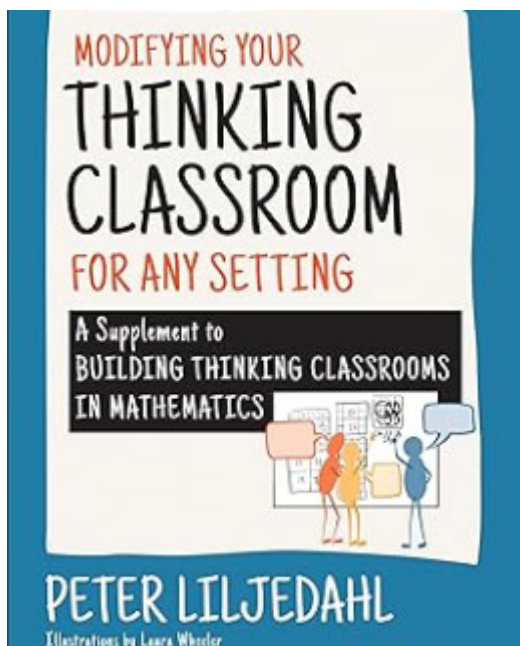
We've also streamlined our tagging, all of which make it easier to find relevant and thought-provoking resources just right for your students.

If you are interested in checking out Maths300, contact our friendly team to arrange a free trial at [maths300@aamt.edu.au](mailto:maths300@aamt.edu.au).

We have also published the first Maths300 newsletter of this term. This newsletter carries handpicked activities covering both primary and secondary maths, showcases the software and highlights new and exciting updates to Maths300.

[Click here to access Term 1 newsletter](#)

## Gems from the bookstore

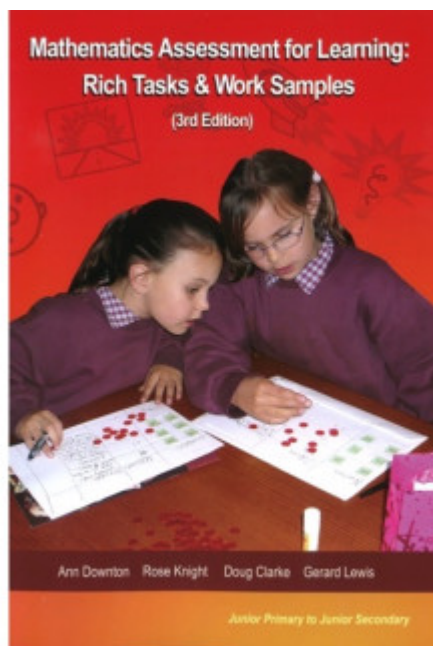


### Modifying Your Thinking Classroom for Different Settings *by* Peter Liljedahl

In Peter Liljedahl's bestselling *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning*, readers discovered that thinking is a precursor to learning. Translating 15 years of research, the anchor book introduced 14 practices that have the most potential to increase student thinking in the classroom and can work for any teacher in any setting.

But how do these practices work in classroom settings that are not always face-to-face or small groups or in one-on-one teaching? This follow-up supplement will answer those questions, and more. It walks teachers through how to adapt the 14 practices for 12 distinct settings, some of which came about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here to order now!](#)



### Mathematics Assessment for Learning Rich Tasks and Work Samples *by* Ann Downton, Rose Knight, Doug Clarke & Gerard Lewis

A book for teachers seeking to inform their teaching by the use of tasks which can help to identify what their students know and can do in mathematics.

This book provides a range of rich assessment tasks in mathematics, for years Prep to 8, in Number, Space and Measurement, Chance and Data; samples of real students' work, across a broad range of grade levels and performance; and general and specific scoring rubrics, to provide a structure against which student work samples can be assessed.

[Click here to order now!](#)

## Research Participants Wanted

The University of the Sunshine Coast is undertaking a research project to interrogate the meaning of success in mathematics education and how success is determined in mathematics education (Ethics: S241925). The research team includes PhD candidate Rebecca Burtenshaw, Dr Margaret Marshman and Prof Marilyn Goos. They are looking for participants to complete an online survey (approximately 30 minutes) to gather experiences and insights from teachers of mathematics (primary or secondary). If you currently teach mathematics (primary or secondary) in a school, you are invited to participate in this research project.

For more information or to complete the survey, click [here](#) or scan the QR code. For more information, contact Rebecca Burtenshaw at [rebeccaburtenshaw@research.usc.edu.au](mailto:rebeccaburtenshaw@research.usc.edu.au).



### Help shape Australian education

AITSL is exploring the impact of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (Teacher Standards) across all 4 career stages: Graduate, Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead, asking questions like :

Which Teacher Standards have the greatest impact on your practice to improve student outcomes?

What are the most effective ways to use the Teacher Standards in your context?

This information is collected via a survey which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

By completing this survey, you will help AITSL better understand the impact of the teacher standards, and make a genuine difference to education in Australia.

**Click here to respond to the survey**

**ICME-15**  
Join our mailing list to  
get the latest news  
Come and be counted in Sydney, 2024!

### ICME-15 School Poster Competition – Watch this space!

All school age children in Australia are invited to participate in a Big Poster Competition to celebrate mathematics and its place in our lives. A selection of the posters will be displayed



at the International Congress on Mathematical Education in Sydney, 7-14 July, 2024.

The theme of ICME-15 is "Come and be Counted".

ICME-15 is a gathering of mathematics educators and teachers, authors and curriculum designers from around the world.

To harmonise with the Congress theme, the poster theme is "Everyone counts".

The competition will have age categories from K to 12, and students may enter as individuals, or small groups up to four members. UTS Science is generously sponsoring gift cards for prizes in each category.

AAMT is supporting this event, and will assist with sharing information, so please "Watch this space".

Rules and entry guidelines and ideas for lesson plans will follow shortly on the AAMT website and social media channels. Posters will be submitted online and details will be announced soon.

Enquiries may be directed to [postercompinfo@aamt.edu.au](mailto:postercompinfo@aamt.edu.au).

### Do you know a great teacher?

The Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards recognise exceptional teachers and school leaders who are having a positive impact within and outside their schools. These teachers are influencing and shaping best practice, policy and the broader profession, particularly in disadvantaged settings.

Every year, a total of 22 teaching awards are granted across two categories: Teaching Fellowships and Early Career Teaching Scholarships. Recipients of these awards enjoy valuable benefits such as continuous professional growth opportunities, as well as guidance and support to help establish a nationwide community of inspirational educational leaders.

If you are thinking of nominating a colleague (or even yourself), be sure to act quickly as the deadline for applications is April 8th. Visit the website [here](#) for more information and to submit your nomination.

Thank you for subscribing to the AAMT newsletter.

Here are a few other ways to stay updated on the latest in maths education in Australia:

Follow us on **Facebook** or on Twitter **@aamtinc**.

Connect with **AAMT Inc**, our **CEO Allan Dougan** or **Education Specialist Denise Halliday** on LinkedIn.

Our quarterly newsletter is delivered right into your mailbox. Past newsletters can be found on our website under the **About Us/Newsletters** section.

And if you like what you read, please tell your colleagues about us!

Kind regards,  
AAMT Team

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