

Report of the Math Fair Conferences in BIRS in April 2011 11w2164

This was the ninth year that a spring SNAP math fair workshop has been held at BIRS. There were 17 participants in all, from a wide cross-section of educators: K-12 teachers, university teachers, people from independent organizations, and puzzle makers and collectors. The workshop provided a rich interaction between the various groups. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together people who are interested in using our particular type of math fair to enhance the mathematics curriculum. The word SNAP in the name "SNAP math fair" is an acronym for the guiding principles of this unconventional type of math fair: It is Student-centred, Non-competitive, All-inclusive, and Problem-based. Unlike a "poster-session" science fair, this type of math fair is highly interactive and the student presenters are very engaged with the visitors to the math fair. (For more information, see <http://www.mathfair.com>)

The BIRS math fair workshop included presentations by persons who have organized math fairs with suggestions for teachers on how to organize a math fair at their own school. The workshop also included puzzle sessions where teachers have an opportunity to try math fair puzzles, and suggestions about how to use games and math puzzles in the classroom.

The BIRS math fair workshops contribute greatly to the enriching the curriculum, and the workshops have helped encourage the use of SNAP math fairs around the world.