

## MathEdge Students Representing USA Receive Eight Awards in 2013 International Math Competition held in Bulgaria

**SAN JOSE, CALIF. – July 29, 2013** – On July 4, four Bay Area teams consists of sixteen students, trained by MathEdge, took home eight individual awards in the Bulgaria International Mathematics Competition (BIMC) against 577 other contestants. This year’s competition hosted contestants for one week in the beautiful seaside city of Burgas. Contestants from over 30 countries including Australia, [Bulgaria](#), [Canada](#), [China](#), [Cyprus](#), [Hong Kong](#), [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Iran](#), [Japan](#), [Korea](#), [Macau](#), [Malaysia](#), [Mexico](#), [Mongolia](#), [Netherland](#), [Nigeria](#), [Philippines](#), [Russia](#), [South Africa](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Taiwan](#), [Thailand](#), [USA](#), [Ukraine](#), [Vietnam](#), and [Zimbabwe](#) competed in either Elementary Mathematics International Competition (EMIC) for elementary students or Invitational World Youth Mathematics Intercity Competition (IWYMIC) for middle school students.

USA team-students were selected from a tryout in early February administered by MathEdge, a local math competition training and learning center that focuses on logical reasoning and problem solving. After twelve weeks of training, a final selection test was administered in late April to select the final sixteen students for whom all expenses for the six-day trip (except airfare) were covered by BIMC

In the EMIC, an impressive five out of eight MathEdge students scored individual awards. Silver medalist Kenny Wang and bronze medalist Dianna Pei are both sixth graders from Miller Elementary in Cupertino. Another sixth grader, Kevin Chen from Mission San Jose Elementary, Fremont also won a bronze medal. Earning merit awards were Jonathan Huang in fourth grade at Faria Elementary, Saratoga and Michelle Fang in sixth grade at Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School, Palo Alto. Other participants in EMIC included Jason Huang (6<sup>th</sup> grader from Harker, Santa Clara), Grace Huang (5<sup>th</sup> grader from Harker, Santa Clara), and Andrew Xu (5<sup>th</sup> grader from Chadbourne, Fremont).

In the IWYMIC , three more claimed awards including seventh-grade bronze medalist Michelle Song from Hopkins Middle School, Fremont and merit award winners Justin Chan who is a ninth grader from Monta Vista and Vinayak Kumar, an eighth grader from Windemere Ranch Middle School, San Ramon. Joshua Chan (9<sup>th</sup> grader from MSJH, Fremont), Albert Lo (10<sup>th</sup> grader from Dougherty Valley, San Ramon), Qing Huang (7<sup>th</sup> grader from Horner, Fremont), Shopnavo Biswas (7<sup>th</sup> grader from Challenger, Palo Alto) and Jonathan Zhang (9<sup>th</sup> grader from Valley Christian, San Jose) also participated.

As math contestant Joshua Chan takes his seat beside students from China and Bulgaria, the atmosphere is quiet and tense. Once you start the two-hour test, you calm down, “but the most important thing is to keep your concentration.”

While Chan was feeling anxious, Vinayak Kumar says he felt just a bit nervous but also well-prepared. In addition to training at MathEdge for three months, Kumar spent all day before the

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trip doing problems in his math book and consoling his coach, Mr. Norman Tsai. The eighth grader's genuine passion for math is apparent as he has competed in multiple competitions including Mathcount, AMC 8, and AIM "for fun" and hopes to pursue a career in mathematics. When personally presented a merit award by Burgas' mayor, Kumar says he felt "very proud and very happy onstage when he and his coach held the American flag."

The goal of this annual math competition is not only to recognize outstanding skill in mathematical logic in younger students but also to encourage the improvement of mathematics and higher-order thinking skills in academic curriculum internationally. As Shopnavo Biswas comments, "It was a great opportunity [for students] to show their prowess in math" as well as "go international and meet kids from other countries."



Back row,(L – R):Two Bulgarian team guides, Joshua Chan, Vinayak Kumar, Justin Chan, Jonathan Zhang, Albert Lo, Shopnavo Biswas, Qing Huang, Michelle Song, Coach Joanna Tan, Coach Norman Tsai.Front row (L-R): Grace Huang, Kenny Wang, Dianna Pei, Michelle Fang, Jason Huang, Kevin Chen, Jonathan Huang, Andrew Xu.

### About MathEdge

**MathEdge** specializes in problem solving and competitive math training. **MathEdge** was created in 2004 to teach students to apply problem solving skills to mathematics. As opposed to the computational skills normally taught in schools, the **MathEdge** technique focuses on the reasoning between a problem and its solution, rather than on the answer itself. **MathEdge** students have won many awards in national and international math competitions such as MathCounts, MathOlympiads, American Mathematics Contest, Primary Math World Contest, etc.