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| *Happy New Year* |

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| ***The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists*****Members' Newsletter****http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/VACMS%20logo3sm.jpg**January 2017***The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists*****Members' Newsletter** |

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| ***The President's Corner***This is an exciting time for VACMS.  The Executive Board is growing with the addition of a representative for each VDOE Superintendent's region and for higher education, and with that growth, I am looking forward to growing the organization. Congratulations to those selected to fill vacant positions on the Board. Tracy Gaither who is President-Elect, Linda Jaeger who is the new Membership Secretary, Phyllis Walls who will be representing Region 1, and Kristen Brink who will be representing Region 4. Good News! In an effort to increase the services to the membership, VACMS will be offering a First Timers Grant to specialists/teacher leaders who have not previously attended the fall conference.  Details about the grant will be released in April on the VACMS website.  [http://vacms.org/](http://www.vacms.org/)  http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/save%20the%20date.jpg***September 28-29, 2017, for the Fall 2017 VACMS conference to be held at the Germanna Community College campus in Culpeper, VA. Check in at the VACMS website for emerging information about the conference.***I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and prosperous new year! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall!  *Corinne Magee* |

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| ***Membership Secretary's Corner******Reflections on the 2016 Annual VACMS Conference***The 2016 conference in Culpeper started out with an in-depth look at the 2016 Standards of Learning lead by the VDOE Mathematics Leadership Team, Debbie Delozier, Tina Mazzacane, and Christa Southall, as we reviewed the summary of revisions and crosswalks for grades Kindergarten through Geometry.  These documents can now be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/mathematics/2016/index.shtml>. These three highly informative sessions helped us deepen our knowledge of how and why our standards are changing in order to make us more effective as we go to serve our schools. Our Friday sessions were filled with many informative sessions, including one by Dr. Robert Berry, III, who is the newly elected president of NCTM.  Presentations can be accessed (including handouts) through our website under Resources at  [www.vacms.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDavid%5CDownloads%5Cwww.vacms.org).The 2016 conference evaluations revealed that 86% of the attendees who completed the evaluations found the conference to be more than satisfactory. The two comments from the attendees below represent many of the comments about the conference.*We look forward to getting the most up to date information from the VDOE staff regarding changes, new programs, and other opportunities for our students.  It is also a great way to network with other math specialists across the Commonwealth to build relationships and share resources.  There are some very good sessions and it is always hard to pick which ones to attend.* ***Math Specialist from Roanoke City****When I attended the VACMS conference in Culpepper, I gained valuable up to date information from the VDOE.  The conference provided in depth knowledge regarding changes to the Mathematics Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework. Also, I was fortunate to collaborate with other math specialist around the state.  This opportunity included activities, teaching strategies, and discussions to promote student achievement.* ***New Math Specialist (1st year)***The VAMSC Board appreciates the suggestions submitted on the evaluations to help us plan the 2017 conference and we encourage you to send along any other suggestions you may have to President and Conference Program Chair Corinne Magee at Corinne.magee@apsva.us. *Linda Jaeger*

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| http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/2017%20goals.jpg***Thinking about a New Year’s Professional Goal--***What tools do you already have in your toolkit and what other tools would you like to add in 2017? What new tools would you like to add to your toolkit?                            Where will you acquire new tools? |

***Happy*** **210 + 29 + 28 + 27 + 26 + 25 + 20**

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|  http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/toolapron.jpg***The Utility Apron Resources Corner*** is a new feature of the VACMS Newsletter. The idea of a *utility apron* versus a *toolkit* is represented by an actual apron pictured at the left designed by Jamey Lovin. A toolkit is a collection of lots of different things but some tools may not be used very often. However, an apron is worn and with the wearer at all times when on the job. The utility apron holds the materials and resources a mathematics specialist or teacher leader needs to have available for “just in time” ideas to meet the needs of teachers and administrators in their efforts to improve student learning. VACMS wants the Utility Apron Resources Corner to be a place for our members to share and encourages you to send ideas for activities to do with teachers and suggestions for resources to use in coaching, grade level meetings or PLCs, and working with parents and administrators to Linda Jaeger at myteacher9@gmail.com or to your Regional Representative listed on the VACMS website.  |
| **Carol Walsh, Region 3 Representative**A resource that I use consistently when working with teachers is Graham Fletcher's website, *Questioning My Metacognition/Trying to be a Better Teacher* at [gfletchy.com](http://gfletchy.com/).  On his website, you will find videos for progressions for Addition/Subtraction; Multiplication; and Division. These are great videos to share during vertical planning with teachers. Additionally, he includes 3 Act Lessons for elementary students similar to Dan Meyer's 3 Act Math Tasks. The posts on his website address supporting students' conceptual knowledge of mathematics, many times including activities that can be used in the classroom.  Retrieve at [gfletchy.com](http://gfletchy.com/).  Enjoy!! |
| **Francine Davis, Region 8 Representative**I use Lakeshore’s *Elementary Number Talk Daily Activity Centers* to assist my teachers with implementing daily number talks. Each center is divided into 3 categories: model, explain, and critique. The center cards have the number talk prompt on the front with probing questions on the back. The cards have proven to be a great asset in helping the teachers implement number talks. As far as my district, Halifax School Division, one of our big focuses is on student engagement. We are using two documents titled *Descriptions of Student Engagement Terms* to understand examples and non-examples of high and low yield student engagement strategies. Research says that students who are engaged in school achieve greater academic success (Skinner et. al., 2008). The two documents are great to identify student "Look Fors." These documents were shared and implemented with our division by our state contractor during our Focus School status. The documents can be accessed at* [**http://tinyurl.com/zdyvkz2**](http://tinyurl.com/zdyvkz2)   **and**
* [**http://www.vsba.org/images/uploads/conferences/Providing\_District\_Support\_-\_Descriptions\_Student\_Engagement\_Terms.pdf**](http://www.vsba.org/images/uploads/conferences/Providing_District_Support_-_Descriptions_Student_Engagement_Terms.pdf)**.**
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| **Vickie Inge, Advisor to VACMS Board***Inside Mathematics* is a web-based set of K-12 mathematics instructional improvement resources including video, tasks, and problems. I have used many of the materials in mathematics specialist course work and in professional development activities for mathematics specialist and teacher leaders. The videos share how coaches and teacher leaders facilitate work with individual and groups of teachers. As the website states, “come and open the door”* to lessons presented to children and groups of observing teachers;
* to coaches or teacher leaders facilitating reflective mathematics practices and providing resources for teachers to improve their practice;
* to mathematics teaching and learning tools and resources to support classroom teachers’, math coaches’, and administrators’ daily practices;

Access the site and materials at <http://www.insidemathematics.org/>. |
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|           **Stay Connected with VACMS and with each other—****Website:**Keep up with latest events, pre-conference information and post-conference presentation resources, and other resources related to the work of a  mathematics leader. Visit us at [**www.vacms.org**](http://www.vacms.org/)**.****Facebook:**Request to join the VACMS facebook group by visiting the group'spage *VACMS-The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists.***Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter: @va\_mathcoach.**2017 Annual VACMS Conference:**Hold the date for September 28-29, 2017 at Germanna Community College at the Culpeper, VA. campus.http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/VACMS%20Logo2.jpg          |

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