



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT. . .

We are excited about some technological innovations we've made this year in Anacapa math classes. As a result of discussions with the Board's strategic planning committee and the math department last spring and summer, we have added online textbooks, mathematical software, and a classroom set of iPads to our student resources. The student response has been very positive.

In Algebra I class, the students enjoy working with technology in the classroom and using an e-book instead of a traditional math book. Eighth grader Aylin Casas, an algebra student this year, says, "I love it! It is so great because it's portable, has links to homework help, and there's no book to take home." Online logins allow access to the e-books from anywhere, as well as immediate feedback when doing homework. This feedback doesn't mean getting the answer immediately, but sequential hints are provided to guide the student to solve the problem on their own – like having a live teacher available anytime day or night as long as there is Wi-Fi!

In Geometry class, the iPads are used to access Geogebra, a mathematical software that allows students to discover geometrical relationships. Tenth grader Randy Ross shares, "It's really fun. We can make graphs and plot points, make angles and shapes. It helps me a lot to understand what we're doing in class. Plus, Liggy uses the iPad with airplay to show us on the TV monitor what she's doing in real time." The students, however, still use technology of another time (compass, straight edge, and paper) to explore geometry ideas as well. The mix of old and new is fun, and it allows students to see math concepts from different perspectives. As the math department tries new and interesting applications of the iPads, we are looking forward to expanding the number of classes and students who use them. The new technology is a small piece of the overall learning process, but it is a nice addition to our other methods of instruction.

We hope you'll join us at Anacapa's 22nd Annual Math Fair from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Monday, November 23. There will be puzzles, problem-solving, math conversation, mystery guests (you will not want to miss!) and prizes (like discounts at local coffee houses or flower bouquets just in time for Thanksgiving)!!! This event is for the whole family from young siblings to grandparents. You will leave with a smile, some math successes, and maybe even a prize! See you there!

~ ~ Bryan Anderson and Liggy Chien