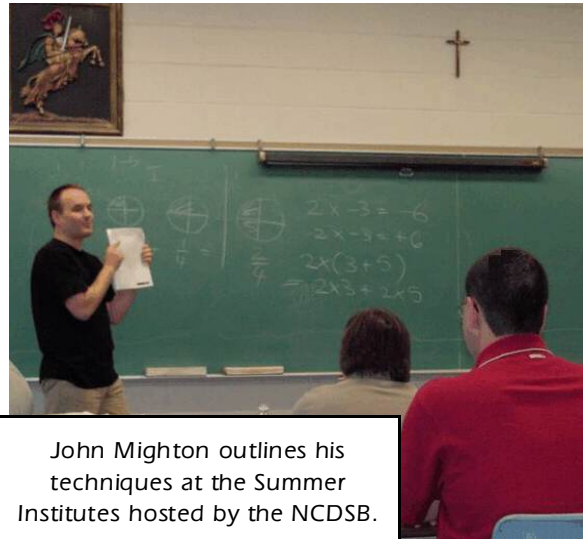


'MATH MOTIVATOR' JOHN MIGHTON PRESENTS AT SUMMER INSTITUTES

When students return to the classroom next week, they will be able to get a 'JUMP' on math. That will be thanks to renowned mathematician John Mighton, who is training teachers to use his Junior Undiscovered Mathematical Prodigies (JUMP) approach at the Summer Institutes hosted by the Northeastern Catholic District School Board.

The JUMP program focusses on building confidence and success in students by breaking down mathematical concepts and operations into simple steps. His approach has been put to the test at several chapters of the JUMP tutoring organization, an educational charity that he has founded in the Toronto area. Working with teams of volunteers and teachers, they aim to promote the advancement of education by providing training to teachers and free tutoring to children identified as having difficulty in math. "The program is based on the absolute belief that all kids can do math, and that no child should be left behind," explained Mighton. "There is a myth that some children are not able to do math, when in fact, it is the methods that are failing them. When taught properly, by using counting strategies and reducing a problem to a set of steps, math becomes easier and more enjoyable. It can be an engine of learning for students: if you can convince them that they are smart in math, they will believe that they can achieve in every subject. Children love to exercise their mind if they are allowed to succeed."



John Mighton outlines his techniques at the Summer Institutes hosted by the NCDSB.

Program Principal John D'Alessandri is a strong believer that the JUMP program can go a long way in improving numeracy. "We have tested these methods within some of our classrooms with much success," noted D'Alessandri. "The students are more confident about their ability to solve math problems, and therefore are more enthusiastic about completing assignments and tackling new math concepts. Mr. Mighton will be training more teachers to use his strategies when teaching math to students who are struggling in this area."

The Board is also focussing on other areas of learning this week, with workshops on Classroom Publishing, Multi-Media Technology, Web Page Design, Reading Strategies, and Graphics Organizers

Director of Education Paul Toffanello is pleased to see so many teachers taking advantage of the range of workshops being offered by the Board. "The summer institutes are a great opportunity for teachers to learn new methods of teaching to ensure that all students can achieve curriculum expectations," stated Toffanello. "In addition to the JUMP Math presentation, we have several of our own educators who have put together some workshops over the summer to share their best practices when it comes to improving reading and writing skills, and using information technology in the classroom. The time and effort that has gone into the planning and delivery of these sessions, as well as the participation of teachers from various regions, attests to their commitment to improve literacy and numeracy, which are the key building blocks of all learning."

The Summer Institutes were held August 30 and 31 at O'Gorman High School.

**For more information, please contact:
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