

Math Awareness Night

*Discovery School
Buffalo, New York*

*I*nvestigations Math gives students a program of interactive, hands-on learning with manipulatives. When the Discovery School's philosophy, "hands-on and minds-on learning," led them to choose the *Investigations Math* series for its classrooms, teachers thought that parents might want a better understanding of the new material so that they could help their children with math homework. To ease everyone's concerns, the school's Math Action Team organized Math Awareness Night for staff to explain the curriculum and show parents how they can support their children's math skills at home.

At the meeting, parents were immersed in the hands-on activities. Teachers showed them the materials from each grade level to demonstrate how the activities from one year build on those from the previous year. At the end of the evening, teachers gave parents math packets to work on at home with their children.

The Discovery School hosted Math Awareness Night at no cost. The biggest challenge the team faced was gaining access to the building after school hours. To publicize the event, the Math Action Team used the school newsletter and classroom newsletters. They also sent out invitations with tear-offs to determine an approximate number of attendees.

The Discovery School evaluated Math Awareness Night using parent surveys. Parents said they left the meeting with a strong understanding of *Investigations Math* and felt prepared to help their children with their math homework. Students will now benefit from

support both in the classroom and at home. The Math Action Team hopes that, over time, the improved parent involvement in math will increase student math scores on standardized tests.

*Carrie Milch, Jacquelyn Bavaro-Phelan,
Nancy Kenny, and Nadine Hirsch
Math Action Team Members
(716) 828-4728*