True Prime

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LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED
We learned that we should have given the mentor teachers more support during the school year while they had students in their classrooms so that their concerns could be addressed in a timely fashion. It might have been helpful to “audition” the teachers in the first summer classes just as we did the students. There were several teachers whom we found would not be good mentors for our students. Some had no understanding of their peers who did not have mathematics backgrounds as strong as theirs, and felt the same way about the college students.

We should have started giving the preservice teachers more responsibility for selecting topics and approaches in the first class on applications of mathematics. We found that they showed greater improvement when we allowed them to give more input in their learning.

CONCLUSION
We believe that the partnership among the classroom teachers, college students, and professors has created a beneficial learning experience for all of us. Each group complements the others and increases the learning opportunity of both the college students and the elementary children. As the college students graduate, they are being employed as elementary teachers. As they gain experience, we expect them to become peer leaders in the area of mathematics. Moreover, we look forward to the prospect of their becoming mentors for future generations of college students in the project.

REFERENCES


True Prime
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In the dark invisible crevices of the night
a prime number sleuthed
Searching the lifeless coordinates for clues
to the unsolved, unresolved equation.

Greater than or equal to the task
the prime number trudged on,
Dodging villainous vectors, untangling taloned
tangents,
and uncovering unnaccountable sets.

Into both the positive and negative bounds of the infinite,
the prime number prodded forth.
While exponents powered, derivatives differentiated,
and integrals disintegrated all about.

But as the first foggy rays of sunrise broke through,
the prime number proved potent.
Unveiling the sinister and silent silhouette
of the ever-vacuous empty set.

Alas in the tabloids and periodicals of the dewy morning news
the prime number was sainted
For discovering and recovering the imaginative
and illusively vacant solution set.