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## True Prime

Pat Mower

*Washburn University*

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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.

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## True Prime

Pat Mower  
Washburn University  
Topeka, KS  
zzmower@washburn.edu

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 unaccountable 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.