

Sophomore **Kate Craddock** fine tunes her mathematical skills as she completes a practice test at a Math Team meeting.



Math Team adviser **Martha Turtoro** grades the team papers for a qualifying meet, as students compete to be on the "A" Team of more advanced competitors.



Led by adviser Colin Neenan, Knowledge Masters members, in sync with other students across the country, participate in a virtual competition. The schools involved use a

CD to answer various academic questions, which they begin at the same time, allowing nationwide teams to compete together without leaving their school buildings.



Minds merge

From arithmetic to trivia

The furious scratching of pencils and rapid punching of calculator keys was all that could be heard in Martha Turtoro's classroom as the Math Team prepared for their latest competition. Every month, the team members participated in meets with other Fairfield County schools, where members competed in the rounds for which they were best suited. They chose topics from quadratics to imaginary expressions. Although the team's efforts were not met with victory this year, they persevered and had fun together, especially at the pizza parties they had after every meet. Advisers Turtoro and Harold Darak were supportive of the team's efforts, no matter what the outcomes of the competitions. "I'm appreciative of

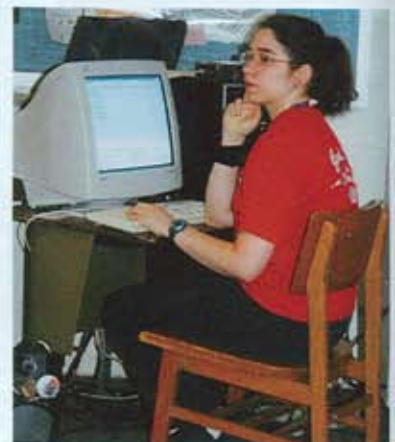
the commitment the kids have," said Turtoro. "They're willing to accept the challenge presented by other schools and compete, no matter what." Knowledge Masters put current technology to use as they participated in nationwide virtual competitions. The topics for the competitions varied from geography to physics, and literature to biology, demanding the expertise of every team member. Junior Thomas Costello said, "One really hard question was about farmland becoming infested with 'leafy spurge.' It was hard because I had never heard of it before, but Knowledge Masters combines the talents of each specific person. Whether the forte is literature or natural science, every member's skills are put to use."



Math: easy as 'pi'

Room A32 was filled with the warm aroma of baked goods and the clatter of plastic cutlery on March 22. Karen Rodriguez's math classes snacked on blueberry pie, donuts and cookies, while the class members presented creative projects assigned in celebration of Pi Day. Each student was assigned a state to research for the final project, which included a graph of the state's temperature on a 24-hour cycle. The students were required to incorporate 3.14, the number value of pi, into their trigonometric modeling projects.

On presentation day, each student was asked to bring in a state-related item of food to share with the class. The mathematical cuisine included blueberry pie, which represented Chicago, Illinois. Another student provided his classmates with Starbucks coffee to accompany his presentation about Seattle, Washington. The whole class learned from the fun challenge. Junior Jordyn Levison said, "The project of a fist-pumping 'Jersey Shore' character was a hilarious interpretation of the state of New Jersey. I enjoyed tasting the variety of state treats while sharing our creations."



Above. At the white board, Math Team co-captain **Heather Dahlin** works through a challenging equation in preparation for an upcoming competition. **Katherine Labella** helps other team members familiarize themselves with questions for Knowledge Masters competition.