

Some Useful Links for People With an Interest in Mathematics/Mathematics Education

The links below are in no particular order, except for the top few, because of serendipity (explained below).

Just happened to be listening this past Sunday morning to, IMHO, the excellent NPR program, “On Being”, hosted by Krista Tippett, and who should she be interviewing, none other than Keith Devlin, mathematician, Professor at Stanford University, author of a host of books popularizing mathematics and ideas concerning mathematics education, and also known as NPR’s “Math Guy”, heard on the “Weekend Edition” on Saturday mornings, where he invariably introduces the host, Scott Simon, to something mathematical that is interesting. Of course you too can listen to “On Being” on VPR, 107.9 on your FM radio dial, but you can also go to <http://www.onbeing.org> and download podcasts of any show that has been broadcast. Because, serendipity, this week’s show was the one that we think that you really might find interesting, if you use the link this week you will see the further link to “The Joy of Math: Keith Devlin On Learning And What it Means To Be Human” (and you can find links to many other shows of interest even if they had nothing to do with mathematics/mathematics education).

While we are on the topic, if you do a Google search on NPR Math Guy (or I can save you the trouble, just click on this link <https://www.google.ca/#q=npr%20math%20guy> , you will find many links Keith Devlin, and some to various tidbits that Keith Devlin has talked about on the “Weekend Edition”. Many of these could be very useful in classroom situations! If you want to be more organized about these you can go directly to the source, <http://www.npr.org>, and then use their search engine to search for “Math Guy”, or if you want a direct link, just click on <http://www.npr.org/search/index.php?searchinput=%22Math+Guy%22&dateId=0&programId=0> and you will see a list of some 72 vignettes.

Then of course there is the now famous “Khan Academy” (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>), with free help in Algebra and Arithmetic and pre-Algebra. (If you don’t know the story behind the “Khan Academy”, then you can use this link (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_Academy) to read about Salman Khan and his dream of providing “a world-class education for anyone anywhere”.

Suppose you know someone who needs help in mathematics, or even a whole class of students who need help, then maybe you should contact MathNerds (<http://www.mathnerds.com/>). This organization, set up by two young math education professors in the USA, uses volunteers from all over the world to provide free one-on-one assistance to students who need help. You can also contact them if you want to provide help to an entire class of students – sometimes they arrange for a class of Mathematics Education students to tutor a class of students as part of their “classwork”.

Trying to keep this to one page is difficult. A Google search for “free mathematics software” brings up an alarming 233,000 links in 29 seconds. Amazingly some of it is actually useful (<https://www.google.ca/#q=%22free+mathematics+software%22>).