

## At the Dufferin County Bake-Off

Ellie was the only member of the Melancthon team who didn't panic when the chair of the judging panel removed the tea towel covering their flatbread. (The chair, from East Luther, was noted for her rigorous standards.) A large piece of the team's flatbread entry was missing! It had broken off – or been cut off, for the broken edge, like the other three edges, was perfectly straight. The Melancthon team had felt that presenting their entry in the shape of a perfect rectangle would give them a leg up on the competition, because most teams baked their entries in squares. Now they had a problem.



According to the rules, an entire flatbread entry had to be cut and served to four judges in pieces of precisely identical shape and size. Fortunately for her team, Ellie did a quick calculation and after several deft swipes with a bread knife was able to present each judge with the required sample, precisely according to the rules. (Her team came in second, edged out by the team from Caledon East who had baked a trapezoid.)

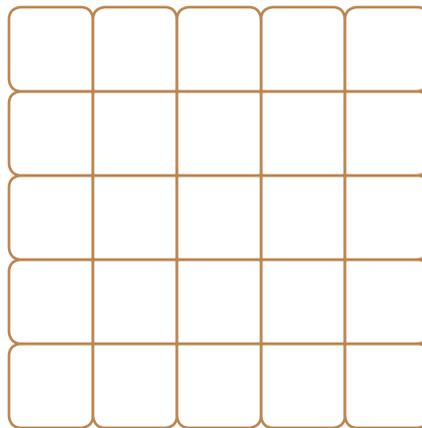
*How did Ellie cut the Melancthon flatbread to save the day?*

## Mrs Ough's Class to the Rescue

A bus breakdown stranded several Grade 7 classes on a field trip from their school in Bolton to the Glencairn Conservation area near Creemore. Fortunately, Mrs. Ough's class had some number puzzles with them, so everyone had something to do until a new bus came.

I

Fill the grid using only the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Use one number in each square without repeating a number in any column, row or diagonal.



II

Bagreet pointed to the cash register and said, "It says I owe \$1.70 and that's wrong. I bought two bubblegums at 2¢ each and eight at 4¢ each. I don't remember what the eight candy kisses cost or the 12 licorice sticks, but there's no way the total can be \$1.70."

*Why can Bagreet be so sure of this?*

III

Enzo pointed at the following equation,

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 = 100$$

"That is wrong," he said. "Watch this! I'll use seven plus and minus signs to show how those nine numbers can equal 100!"

"I'll go you one better," Maria said. "I can make the nine numbers equal 100 with only three plus and minus signs!"

*How did Enzo do it?  
How did Maria do it?*



## The Prevaricating Swim Team

It could be their specialty, the backstroke, is at the root of this practice, but the Grand River Foursome has a habit of always making false statements when they report the results of their backstroke races. After their most recent competition at Island Lake in Orangeville, for example, the team (falsely) presented the results thus:

Abby said, "Cam came in fourth."

Barb said, "Cam beat Dorella."

Cam said, "Abby beat Barb."

Dorella said, "I came in first."

*Who actually came in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th?*

## No Tricks! (Well, maybe...)

Two of these word puzzles are straightforward. One is not.

A

The adverbs "facetiously" and "abstemiously" share a feature that is unique in all of English vocabulary.

*What is it?*

B

There is a particular English word that is written with five letters but is pronounced with the sound of only one letter.

*What is it?*

C

Removing six letters from the string below will leave a familiar English word.

t r b i a x n l a s n e s t a e

*What is it?*

## "I'll spell this colour correctly from now on."

"I'm really keen about correct spelling. Take the spelling of colours, for example, ones like persimmon (yes, it's a colour). A lot of people – not me – are unsure about the s's and m's. Cyan is a tricky colour to spell too, as is azure – their sound throws you off. Ochre (ocher?) is always fun and beige never fails to confuse. Anyway, I thought I could spell every colour in the spectrum until I saw an old copy of the Orangeville Banner at the Dufferin Archives. It was all about Nikita Krushchev, the premier of Russia at the height of the Cold War. Remember him? Anyway, that's when I learned I'd been spelling a colour wrong! You see, in 1959 he came to the UN in New York and it must have been a big deal because the paper covered every angle of his trip. That's what led to my spelling discovery. According to the Banner, Mrs. Khrushchev wore a white-and-fuchsia dress to some big dinner. Not *fuschia* as I'd written for years, but *fuchsia*! Of course, I ran for my dictionary and sure enough ... Incidentally, the colour got its name from a German botanist, Leonhart Fuchs. Knowing about Herr Fuchs will make spelling fuchsia easy to remember now – along with the fact it took a visit from Nikita Khrushchev to expose a glitch in my spelling expertise."

*Turn to Solutions on page 118 for the challenge question.*