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media release

TVOKIDS MATH HOMEWORK HOTLINE GETS ONTARIO'S GRADESCHOOLERS READY FOR EQAO TESTING, THURSDAY MAY 14, LIVE STARTING AT 3:55 PM ET

- **LIVE interactive event gives primary school students help in math and writing tests in real time, on air and online**
- **Featuring math expert Troy Langevine, vice principal of Ellesmere-Statton Public School in Scarborough, ON**
- **Also: Web-exclusive videos on the how-tos of test writing at tvokids.com**

Toronto, April 30, 2009 — Math tests are often a source of anxiety for kids, and writing them can be an intimidating experience. There's the worry of not knowing how to prepare or what to study, the fear of having to do it alone, the pressure of the test itself, not understanding the questions, and the sheer volume of questions. As approximately 130,000 Ontario primary school kids gear up to write the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments (May 25 - June 5), and with end-of-year tests on the horizon, TVO brings kids timely and fun math help with the second edition of the ***TVOKids Math Homework Hotline***, live on Thursday May 14 starting at 3:55 pm ET.

Math expert Troy Langevine, vice principal at Ellesmere-Statton Public School in Scarborough, returns to join *TVOKids* host Mark Sykes live in studio during the *TVOKids* afterschool programming block. **From 3:55 to 7 pm ET live** (and streamed live at tvokids.com) Langevine and Mark will appear during hosted breaks between shows (approximately every half hour) to take email and phone questions from Grade 1 to 3 kids on the various math problems they're facing, and to provide coaching on the how-tos of writing math tests. Kids can submit their questions to tvokids.com now, or call 1.888.886.5437 on the day of the broadcast.

"As the only live kids' programming block in the country, *TVOKids* has the unique advantage of being able to interact with kids in real time," says Patricia Ellingson, TVO's Creative Head of Children's Media, Content & Programming. "We're harnessing that ability to provide guidance to all kids in Grades 1 to 3 for what is often their biggest academic challenge: math. With help from our expert Troy Langevine, we want to make math fun for kids, alleviate their anxieties, and just help them better understand this part of the curriculum."

"We want to equip all young students writing a math test, as well as the Grade 3 students who are going to be writing the EQAO assessment this year, with tips, tricks and useful strategies that they can apply," says Langevine. "Some of these include taking the time to read the entire question; looking for clues in the questions; drawing or writing down your thought process; and circling your answer. The EQAO tests only represent a snapshot of how kids are progressing with the curriculum at a given time. Through the *TVOKids Math Homework Hotline*, we aim to bolster kids' confidence, which is key to their success both at test time and throughout the school year."

In addition to the live broadcast segments, Langevine and Mark will star in six web-exclusive math videos at tvokids.com. The videos are themed around practice test questions using the six most challenging questions from last year's EQAO tests. Kids will also be able to download practice worksheets from the site. **From 7 to 7:30 pm ET**, the *TVOKids Math Homework Hotline* moves exclusively to tvokids.com where Langevine and Mark will continue to take questions from kids.

The inaugural edition of the *TVOKids Math Homework Hotline* in February 2009 received an overwhelmingly positive response from kids, attracting over 1100 emails and phone calls.

"It was inspirational and surprising that so many kids reached out to us, because it's obvious there's a need and interest in excelling in mathematics," says Langevine.

Adds Ellingson, "We clearly struck a chord, and we were thrilled that kids were so candid and articulate about the areas in which they needed help. Kids really want to succeed in school and sometimes they just need a little more guidance. The entire *TVOKids* team takes great pride in having the opportunity to provide this guidance, and we're excited to be doing it again in this second edition of the *Math Homework Hotline*."

Also: as a complement to the *TVOKids Math Homework Hotline*, **Your Voice**, TVO's web series for parents at tvoparents.com, will explore the topic of girls and their attitude toward math in "Why Girls Don't Like Math." The episode can be viewed at anytime online at tvoparents.com starting Friday May 15 and will be broadcast on TVO on Sunday May 17 at 6 pm.

About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit tvo.org.

Where to find TVO

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353.

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