Subject: Our project was targeted at modifying current resources and heightening student engagement in mathematical problem-solving. Once we began our research, we realized that we needed to reflect on what makes a critical thinking math problem engaging for all students at various levels, (e.g., 1, 2, 3 and 4). We then focused on the works of Marian Small, a long-time Canadian professor of mathematics education. These texts are:

1. Good Questions – Great Ways to Differentiate Mathematics Instruction
2. BIG IDEAS from Dr. Small – Creating a Comfort Zone for Teaching Mathematics

Marian’s work inspired us to examine, in detail, her two principal strategies: open questions and parallel tasks. This led us to create a bank of “good” questions incorporating all five math strands for students from Kindergarten to Grade Five. We developed a generic problem-solving rubric as well as a daily problem-solving tracking sheet, to accompany these questions.

Our next step is to share our knowledge and our resources with our colleagues during our Professional Development Meetings.