

Math Club Problem of the Week

Problem #1

Some numbers can be obtained by adding three "perfect squares" and some cannot. For example, the numbers 4, 5, 6, 8, 48, and 99 can be found as $4=4+0+0$, $5=4+1+0$, $6=4+1+1$, $48=16+16+16$, $99=49+25+25$. On the other hand, it's impossible to write 7 this way.

Problem: Find four positive whole numbers (other than 7) which **CAN'T** be found by adding up three perfect squares.

The rules: Write your **answer** on a piece of paper along with your **name** and **email address**, and submit it in the box located at the switchboard in Hubbard hall before **5pm on Friday, September 19**. All correct answers to this week's problem will be entered into a drawing to win a **ten dollar Wal-Mart gift card**. In addition, every correct answer to this week's problem is worth **15 points** toward our semester tally. The person with the **most** points at the end of the semester will win our **grand prize**! Happy solving!



[This contest is eligible only to USCL students enrolled in the Fall 2008 semester.]