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Mathematics between knowing and understanding

Abstract

The essence of mathematics is understanding. Also in humanities, the knowledge becomes a true value only through understanding and wisdom. It is even more true for mathematics, that knowledge becomes truly valuable and interesting only through understanding. Understanding can hardly be measured within a 'simplified binary logic' of denial or confirmation of one's understanding. Namely, understanding is transcendent..., as it can always be deepened and intertwined into the global map of human comprehension.

Through particular ideas and examples our too common mental laziness and intellectual dishonesty will be provoked. These intellectual practices are driven by comfort and selfishness and cause a lot of damage to education... In mathematics teaching understanding is too often neglected to the benefit of 'knowledge' with little content and no value.

We shall try to promote the great intellectual and motivational value that understanding and mathematics teaching could and should have.