

### St. Thomas Aquinas School Is Home to #1 Sixth-Grade First In Math® Team

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Bob Sun, inventor of the 24° Game and developer of the First In Math® Online Program, attended a May 11, 2007 Awards Ceremony to honor students and faculty at St. Thomas Aquinas School in South Philadelphia. In their second year of the program, the tiny school's sixth-grade team has achieved the National rank of #1 sixth-grade team!

St. Thomas Aquinas is also currently ranked #5 in the Top 100 schools in Pennsylvania with five or more teams. Sixth-grader Yosua Suyanto is the top-ranked student on team "Storm72pa," and the top student among the school's eight teams, with more than 14,400 stickers. "We're all very proud of this young man," beamed his teacher Yvonne Matherson, who was presented with an elegant acrylic Team Leader award at the ceremony.

Principal Armond Taraborelli accepted a handsome plaque on behalf of the school's top-ranked team. Taraborelli credits St.



Back row, left to right: FIM Team Leader Yvonne Matherson; FIM creator and President of Suntex International Robert Sun; Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Mary Rochford; Principal Armond Taraborelli; Director of Government funded programs Mary-Ann Kaupp-Deangelo and Director of Elementary Services Deborah Bachor. Front row, left to right: Chhi-Chhi Heng; David Chhoeun; top player Yosua Suyanto; Johnny Lee and Julius Wibisano.

Thomas students and teachers equally for creating success with the program. "Our teachers encourage participation with incentives such as homework passes, popcorn parties and positive reports to parents," he says. "These inexpensive and effective tools produce a lot of interest in the First In Math® program."

Taraborelli says he hopes to use the program for years to come.

"When teachers introduce new skills, they can disappear quickly without adequate reinforcement, but FIM provides a way for students to polish new skills in a way they find fun and rewarding," says Principal Taraborelli. "I believe that this program is a fantastic tool for review and reinforcement, and we've experienced significant, measurable increases in our math scores. ■