

## From Italy to Sam Loyd

<http://www.samuelloyd.com/>

*Mathématiques sans frontières* (MSF) is an international competition founded in 1989 by Irem and Inspection Pédagogiques Régionales sous la Haute Autorité du Recteur de l'Académie de Strasbourg. Italy joined in 1991 and has been participating since then. Every year MSF organizes math competitions, involving teachers and students of various degrees and curricula (fifth year of the primary school, first and third year of the secondary school, second and third year of the high school) in several European and overseas countries.

[www.matematicasenzafrontiere.it](http://www.matematicasenzafrontiere.it)

The main goal of the competition is to involve the whole class and not just the single student.

Main objectives of MSF are:

- to highlight the opportunity of learning while having fun
- to enable a positive approach to Math in order to trigger curiosity and develop intuition skills
- to encourage the class to devise an internal organization in a collaborative fashion so as to be able to jointly tackle every proposed exercise
- to reward students being enterprising to achieve a shared goal
- to promote the integration between Math and foreign languages through the requirement that the first exercise is to be answered in a foreign language.

Math uses a universal language, which has incorporated contributions from ancient as well as modern cultures, strengthening the joint path towards universal knowledge. Maintaining a shared interest in this language and knowledge, as MSF aims to, means contributing to remove many "borders":

- between individualism and group collaboration
- between schools, enterprises, towns, countries, and continents
- between Math and foreign languages
- between every kind of "difference".

This year, the Italian group, while searching for exercises that fulfilled the peculiarity of MSF, found in Sam Loyd's puzzles a perfect match to the spirit of the competition. Hence, we asked permission for use to the Sam Loyd's foundation and we inserted, among the exercises of the final day, at a high-school in Venice, at an high-school in Campobasso and at Monza Tacetrack, the TUG OWAR PUZZLE.

Students enjoyed this puzzle so much that all classes solved it and achieved the highest score.

Students could further enjoy themselves with the additional puzzles that we received as a gift.

This is shown in the little yet indicative photo album available below:

.....at Monza racetrack



Students are busy solving the Sam Loyd puzzle



*How intriguing is to solve an exercise that looks like a game: they had really thought hard to make us become friends with Math*

# Matematica Senza Frontiere

## Classe “supervincitrice” 2012

Uno dei 6 esercizi proposti è :

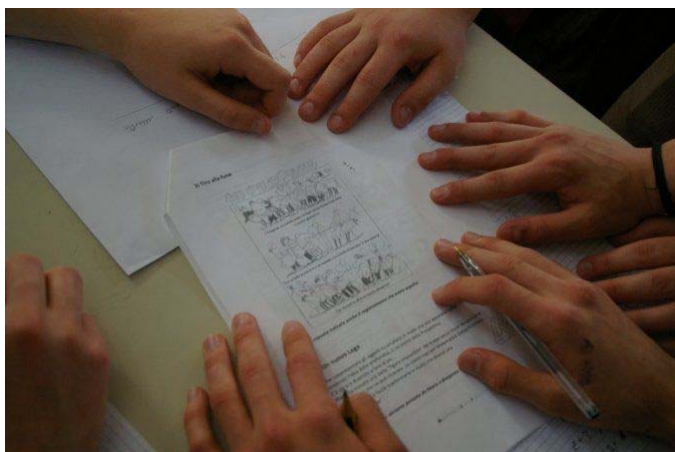
### Tiro alla fune



Il marchio Sam Loyd è registrato; la pubblicazione e diffusione a scopi didattici è stata autorizzata alla scrivente dalla Fondazione omonima *The Sam Loyd Company* la cui produzione è consultabile sul sito [www.samloyd.com](http://www.samloyd.com)

*All hands...and of course,  
thinking in progress*





*We all worked together and together we enjoy the award*



*And to conclude...even the teachers, while marking, enjoyed themselves*



Many thanks to Sam Loyd and to our new friend Tony for his help and support and see you in the next school year!