

October 26 2012

Calcul8 2012 national maths quiz questions are designed to test the contestants' IQ, Fiji Mathematics Association representative Mr Narendra Prasad said.

The contestants from around the country taking part this week in the final rounds being recorded for television at FNU UniStudios are certainly intelligent enough to enjoy their stay in Suva as well as do their sums.

The young contestants from 12 primary and 12 secondary schools and their teachers are accommodated in FNU hostels and provided delicious meals with the support of FNU, the Maths Association and Fiji TV1.

And when they get some time off from the competition, some of them are seeing the sights of the capital city for the first time.

They include youngsters like the team from Tabucola Valibar Sangam Primary School in Labasa, who have been testing their maths skills while making friends with other students.

They are all keen on mathematics, but all of them also like English and reading story books.

Prefect Jessica Raj, wants to go into pharmacy, prefect Komal Naidu wants to be a doctor, head boy Shivam Chetty is interested in becoming an architect and Zoya Raza has decided to be a lawyer.

They all insist that mathematics is essential to everyone's lives, even lawyers.

FMS president Mr Narendra Prasad says people need to be able to handle mathematics in everyday life for many different things and they can't be carrying around computers or calculators to work out their change from a bus fare.

The Maths Association and FNU mathematicians put together over several months a total of 352 questions for both primary and secondary level rounds, that not only test IQ but also problem solving ability, speed and accuracy.

There was little doubt that the television studio was a nest of potential maths scholars this week.

The set was buzzing with excitement and the chatter was often in the language of mathematics.

"They will make good role models for their schools and will be our future mathematicians," Mr said.

When the competition is shown on television, parents use it to help their children revise, he said.

Calcul8 will be screened on TV1 from February next year, on Mondays at 8pm over 32 episodes.