

# *Can You Solve This Math Problem?*

John has a large collection of 8-cent stamps and 15-cent stamps (and no other denominations). He realizes that there are some postage values he can obtain using his stamps, like  $38\text{¢} = 2(15\text{¢}) + 1(8\text{¢})$  or  $40\text{¢} = 5(8\text{¢})$ . And there are some postage values that he cannot get, like 37 cents or 41 cents, using only 8-cent stamps and 15-cent stamps. What is the **largest** postage value that he **cannot** get using only 8-cent stamps and 15-cent stamps? (Assume that there is no limit to the number of stamps that he can use.)

If you know the answer, then get ready for

## *The 2013 Colonial Mathematics Challenge*

Sponsored by

Community College of Philadelphia's Office of Admissions & Mathematics Department

Date: Monday, May 6, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Winnet Student Life Building – Great Hall

17<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden Streets

Philadelphia, PA 19130

*High School juniors and seniors from throughout Philadelphia will compete in individual and team math competitions*

- ✓ Knowledge of Geometry and Algebra II required
- ✓ Calculators will be permitted
- ✓ Lunch will be provided to all students and instructors
- ✓ Preregistration is required – space is limited

The answer to the question, plus additional training materials, can be found at:

<http://faculty.ccp.edu/dept/math/competitions.html>

*Get Ready For The Challenge!*