



Primes and business cards

I was working with a first-year teacher planning for a unit in Algebra 2. He needed ideas to get his students to really understand binomial expansion.

This immediately called to my mind [Pascal's triangle](#) (misnamed because it was known long before he put it into a book).

Remembering a gentleman I met in Cullowhee, North Carolina - Eric, a retired-too-soon middle school teacher who gave a presentation on patterns and [prime numbers](#). **(BLAH!)** **Admittedly, it was a session I was tricked into attending and was looking for a way out!** Eric spoke, though, with such passion and interest, I was immersed immediately into his discussion. The hour ended quickly. I stayed after, engaging in a conversation about patterns that lead to Pascal's triangle. We talked for over an hour longer. I left him with my business card and wrote his name and phone number on the top corner of the notes I had scribbled.

It was Pascal's triangle and that surprisingly passionate discussion that prompted me to try to contact Eric for ideas.

I texted him.

A response excitedly buzzed back within moments!

The text read: *"I have to get business cards like yours!"*

Intrigued my little generic business card had made such a huge impression! *Surely, it was ME that made the impression!*

At our first call, as the barrage of greetings ceased, I asked him what was so great about my card.

With the same enthusiasm he had for Primes and Pascal, he said, "It was amazing!"

"I had bought a new wallet and was cleaning out the old one when I came across your card." He wondered aloud, "Who is this Peter Anderson?"

Not a few moments later, amazed, he received the text introducing myself!

Eric is a wonderful, passionate teacher who has helped me to gain insight into patterns I have overlooked and taken for granted!

But the prideful thing I will hold onto is the fact that I have super awesome business cards!

May you have cards as effective as mine.

Happy Day Nerds,

Peter

PS: Thanks for the well wishes this past week. Cheri is recovering well from her thyroid surgery and is back at work. We are deeply blessed to have such a wonderful community of support.