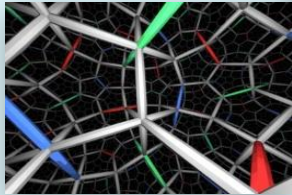# MONTHLY MATH HOUR AT UW

An hour of fun math for Middle school students

presents

The Curvature of Space

By Professor **Jack Lee**, UW, Mathematics

Do you think that everything there is to know about geometry was already discovered ages ago? Think again. Since the time of Euclid, the history of geometry has been a dramatic saga that your middle school teachers probably won't tell you about. It led, more than a century ago, to the mind-bending mathematical discovery that the three-dimensional space we live in might be "curved," in much the same way as the two-dimensional surface of the earth is curved.

In this talk you'll have a chance to learn what it could possibly mean mathematically for space to be curved, how we can detect it, and the fascinating story of how we got from Euclid to here. Along the way, you'll find out about "proofs" by professional mathematicians that turned out to be wrong, bitter personal battles over who was right and who was wrong, a million-dollar prize for solving a mathematical problem, and a mysterious modernday Russian mathematician who earned it but isn't sure he wants it.

UW Seattle campus, Savery Hall, Room 132
Sunday, May 2nd, 1–2pm

This event is part of a series.

Further information, campus maps
and driving directions can be found at
www.math.washington.edu/~mathcircle/mathhour