Odds and Ends

The Puzzler

This issue’s puzzle is sponsored by the Math Club

Members of the Math Club (from left to right): Laura Smith [Treasurer], Jennifer Meyer [Secretary], Eileen Long, Mark Pinkerton [President], Troy Guenin, Dr. Rich Stankewitz [Faculty Advisor]

“One thousand students walk past one thousand lockers. Initially, every locker is closed. The first student opens them all. The second student then closes every other locker again: the second, the fourth, the sixth, and so on. The third student now stops at every third locker and changes it from open to closed, or from closed to open, whichever applies. In general, the nth student will change the state of every nth locker as he or she walks past them. How many lockers will be open at the end of the day?”

Answer: