

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

NOTE: The delay in posting this issue of Newsline was intentional in order to include the most up-to-date information about FY10 and FY11 state and federal ed-tech budgets and programs. The February issue also includes important information about upcoming technology plan and data collection deadlines and provides links to a number of recently published research, reports, and other articles of interest. Continue to watch Newsline and the EdTech listserv for additional updates and breaking news.

Deborah S. Sutton, DESE Instructional Technology Director

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs – Funds Obligation Deadline

Grant recipients are reminded that expenditures for Materials/Supplies (6400) and Capital Outlay (6500) must be obligated by March 31.

Federal Title II.D and ARRA-funded EETT Competitive Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federal/funded/TitleIID/>

The regular Title II.D program funds two (2) first-year and eight (8) year two grants. Funds are earmarked to support school-wide and/or district-wide eMINTS implementation models, designed to meet local educational needs. The ARRA-funded Title II.D program funds 14 new grants: eight (8) eMINTS and six (6) other instructional model projects. See the program website for listings of the currently-approved applications and project descriptions, as well as prior-year summary reports.

State Safe Schools Program

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/about.html>

The FY10 Safe Schools program funds 41 continuation grants: one (1) in year five, 30 in year four, five (5) in year three, and 10 in year two of their multi-year projects. Funds are awarded to support district and/or consortium alternative school programs designed to meet the educational needs of targeted students: those exhibiting violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors. See the program website for listings of the currently-approved applications and project descriptions, as well as prior-year summary reports.

FY11 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs – Preliminary budget information

FY11 State and Federal ed-tech funding

The FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act signed by the President on

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds ▪ P21 launches Video21: 21st Century Education in Action ▪ Boost early math literacy with free DreamBox Learning resources ▪ History.com resources for commemorating Black History Month <p>E-rate Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Year 2010 application deadlines ▪ Funding commitments ▪ FCC rulemaking <p>eMINTS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online registration opens for eMINTS Winter Conference and 10th anniversary celebration ▪ eMINTS offers Cognitive Coaching seminars ▪ eMINTS featured at world-wide seminar in London, England ▪ eMINTS events on the website <p>Gateway Media Literacy Partners Update</p> <p>MOREnet Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOREnet 2010 Advanced Security Symposium ▪ Security Symposium Fees ▪ MOREnet Connections 2010 Conference <p>Regular Featured Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Conferences ▪ Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities ▪ Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects 	<p>December 16, 2009, funds the Title II.D program at \$100 million (representing a nearly two-thirds decrease). The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has informed states of the option to distribute 100% of the funds for competitive grants. With input from federal program practitioners in a webinar hosted February 4, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is planning to exercise the 100% competitive grant option. Look for more information to be released in March as to how the FY11 Title II.D competitive funds will be disbursed.</p> <p>Proposed FY12 federal ed-tech funding</p> <p>On February 1, the Obama Administration released its FY11 education budget request (funding that would be distributed to states and schools in 2011-12), which consolidates 38 education programs into 11 new program areas, and with much of the funding awarded through competitive grants. Under this proposal, the Title II.D program would not be funded; instead, technology has been included as an allowable use across many of the 11 program areas. According to ED officials, for example, the new initiative called Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education would “include a focus on integrating technology into instructional and using technology to drive improvements in teaching and learning” throughout the three focus areas: Literacy, STEM, and Well-rounded Education. At this time, it is unclear how much of the \$1 billion budgeted for the Effective Teaching and Learning Initiative would be spent on education technology. [See the State and Federal News section for additional details and hyperlinks to related documents and resources.]</p> <p>FY11 Safe Schools Program – Preliminary budget information</p> <p>The budget presented by the Governor on January 21 proposes to fund the Safe Schools Grant Program at \$683,000, enough to provide third- and fourth-year support for 15 existing projects. Once the budget process is complete, allocating Safe Schools Grant funding, DESE Instructional Technology will advise eligible districts how to apply for FY11 grant funding.</p> <p>MOREnet K-12 Technology Network Program (TNP) – Budget updates</p> <p>http://www.more.net/content/k-12-technology-network-program</p> <p>As reported previously, MOREnet’s core budget item was reduced for FY10 and has been subject to a number of additional withholds, and the proposed FY11 appropriation reflects a more than \$4 million (33 percent) cut. MOREnet and DESE staff agreed this summer to not increase TNP membership fees for FY10 (except for districts receiving bandwidth increases in the past year that will be assessed higher fees for the extra bandwidth). Staffs continue to analyze options and various strategies for dealing with the decreased funding, for this year and next. At the very least, schools should expect to see a revised fee structure for FY11. The new fee structure, however, will not be finalized until there is more certainty regarding final FY10 and FY11 funding levels.</p> <p>Census of Technology – Core Data screens open March 1; one item revision</p> <p>http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/</p> <p><i>The data entry window for the 2010 Census of Technology (Core Data Screens 30 and 31) is March 1 through April 15. Note that an updated FAQ, excerpted Core Data Manual instructions, and paper survey forms will be posted to the COT website on or before March 1.</i></p> <p>The annual Census of Technology (COT) provides important data for the Department to assess Missouri’s continuing investment in K-12 education</p>
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- From the Mailbag
- New eTHEMES
- Updated eTHEMES

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technologies and share with state and national decision-makers to advance public policy and increase public awareness and support for education technology. It is aligned with the *Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan (METSP)*, the *Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP)*, and the *National Educational Technology Standards (NETS)*. The COT serves as a primary data source for measuring progress toward meeting the state goals and objectives.

COT is an online census (or survey) administered each spring via DESE Core Data-April Cycle *Screens 30* and *31*.

- *Screen 30* is a district-level census, completed by district-level administrators and/or technology specialists; it collects information for all Missouri school districts and charter LEAs, focusing on technology for the district/LEA as a whole.
- *Screen 31* is a school building census, completed by building administrators and/or technology staff; it assesses planning and training needs for each school, hardware and levels of Internet connectivity in computer labs, libraries, and classrooms, and technology usage statistics for building administrators, teachers, staff, and students.
 - All attendance centers, including preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, area career centers, complete *Screen 31*.

2010 Item Revision! Note that the first Technology Usage item on Screen 31 has been updated to align with the online educational resources available through MOREnet: EBSCOhost will be replaced with Gale Databases.

ePeGS / District Technology Planning – ePeGS Update, 2010 state approval cycle reminder

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/>

Excerpt from February 4 ePeGS listserv message regarding “Open New Year” process

There is a slight change from the information presented in the December webinars regarding the “Open New Year” process. It was originally planned to have the “Open New Year” process and changes to the needs assessment page available at the same time; however, the needs assessment portion will be delayed slightly. A **district** needs assessments can be added now, and once the needs assessment page has been updated it will be possible to add **program-specific** needs assessment information. Be sure to communicate with all district ePeGS data entry and authorized rep users before opening a new year because once the button has been selected, it cannot be unselected.

DESE is planning to conduct webinars, starting in March. Look for listserv messages and/or visit the ePeGS website for more information about these events.

200-plus districts will require technology plan approval by June 30, 2010

Instructional Technology mailed information in August to the 200+ districts and charter schools with technology plans due for state approval in spring 2010. As the USPS packets and the August 20 follow-up listserv message indicated, these schools must develop and submit new long-range technology plans addressing school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. The plans must be submitted via ePeGS by April 15, with a paper copy of the ePeGS-created plan sent to Instructional Technology by the same date.

The DESE District Technology Planning Resources website provides a variety of resources to assist district staff in creating effective technology plans. Postings include a copy of the cover letter and scoring criteria for approving plans, checklist of critical technology plan elements, six-step planning process tutorial, how to cross-reference ePeGS goals with MSIP standards and technology plan focus areas (TFAs), workshop presentation slides, links to exemplar plans, and more.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Obama releases FY11 education budget request

President Obama’s proposed budget for FY11 calls for sweeping changes to programs within the U.S. Department of Education (ED), including a restructuring of federal education technology grants. The proposed budget would consolidate 38 existing ED programs into 11 new funding streams aimed at furthering the administration’s key educational redesign goals, including improving teacher quality, bolstering standards and assessments, and turning around low-performing schools.

State and National News, cont'd.

The budget also continues the administration's move from traditional formula funding in favor of competitive grants, "trying to push innovation." \$3 billion in new money is proposed for competitive programs, including \$1.35 billion to continue the \$4 billion Race to the Top program and \$500 million for the Investing in Innovation Fund. Key programs that distribute funding through set formulas, such as IDEA and Title I grants to school districts would be level-funded or targeted for only small increases.

The Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program, the largest single source of federal funding for school technology hardware, software, and professional development, would be consolidated along with several other programs. In past years, under the Bush administration, EETT had been the occasional target of proposed budget cuts but later funded by Congress in budget deliberations. This year, however, it isn't clear that this will happen, not because education technology has lost support in Congress necessarily but because technology funding in this budget proposal is being integrated into other programs.

The funds that, in previous budgets, had been allocated to EETT are folded into the new initiative "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education" that consists of three new programs:

- Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy (\$450 million);
- Effective Teaching and Learning: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (\$300 million); and
- Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education (\$265 million).

While the combined \$1 billion represents an increase over what existing programs received in FY10, it's unclear at this time how much would be spent on education technology in particular.

Meanwhile, the President, Secretary Duncan, and ED have expressed support for technology in education. The White House released the paper, "A New Foundation for 21st Century Learning" explaining how the FY11 proposed budget makes a strong commitment to technology that transforms teaching and learning. "The Administration is not requesting separate funding for Educational Technology State Grants in 2011 but rather is encouraging the infusion of educational technology across programs in order to improve teaching and learning, build the capacity at the State and local level to support better use of technology to maximize efficiency and the effective transfer of knowledge."

See the following documents, press releases, and article for additional information.

- **White House and ED documents, resources:**
 - **Press Release**, "President's Education Budget Signals Bold Changes for ESEA: Budget Proposes More Competition, Flexibility and Accountability"
<http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/02/02012010.html>
 - **President's FY11 ED Budget Request**
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget11/index.html>
 - **White House statement** emphasizing commitment to educational technology, "A New Foundation for 21st Century Learning Education Technology Investments in the 2011 Budget"
http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/SETDA/attach/WhiteHouseStatement_EducationTechnologyInvestments_2011.pdf
- **Articles, responses from education community:**
 - eSchool News article, "FY11 Budget plan folds ed technology into new program"
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/02/01/fy2011-budget-folds-eett-into-new-program/>
 - ISTE, CoSN, and SETDA joint press release, "Education leaders urge administration to reconsider lack of direct investment in education technology; support infusion of technology through new ESEA"
http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_and_Events&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=25374
 - T.H.E. Journal article, "EETT Eliminated in 2011 Obama Budget Proposal"
<http://thejournal.com/Articles/2010/02/01/Ed-Tech-Funding-Eliminated-in-2011-Obama-Budget-Proposal.aspx>
 - Education Week [premium] article, "Obama Budget calls for major shifts on ESEA"
http://www.edweek.org/login.html?source=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/01/21budget_ep.h29.html&destination=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/01/21budget_ep.h29.html&levelId=1000

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

Ten-year update on technology and education

http://edtechtools.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/technology_in_schools_what_research_says.pdf

According to *Technology in the Schools: What the Research Says – A 2009 Update*, from Cisco and the Metiri group, the global economic crisis has highlighted the important role education can play in achieving economic competitiveness. Schools expect that technology will improve education in general by improving teaching and making education more efficient. Schools also expect technology will be involved in improving student achievement by:

- Increasing student engagement in learning,
- Improving learning as tested by standardized tests,
- Improving the economic viability of students,
- Increasing the relevance of school,
- Closing the digital divide by increasing digital literacy, and
- Building 21st century skills.

Revolutionizing Education: What We're Learning from Technology-Transformed Schools

<http://newbay.ebookhost.net/k12/projectred/1/index.php>

Created by the national research and advocacy effort Project RED, and produced by K12 Computing Blueprint, the new eBook *Revolutionizing Education: What We're Learning from Technology-Transformed Schools* shares preliminary results from a survey of technology-rich schools and takes a look at what past research and current observation tell us about the keys to successful technology implementation. What do we know about curriculum reform or the leadership, funding and legislation changes that will allow technology to transform learning and schools, just as it has transformed homes and offices in almost every other segment of our society?

Learning in the 21st Century: Parents' Perspectives, Parents' Priorities

<http://fs6.formsite.com/blackboardmarketing/form532667501/>

Project Tomorrow's annual Speak Up surveys allow educators, administrators, students, and parents the opportunity to provide insight into technology's role in improving students' educational experiences and opportunities. The report *Learning in the 21st Century: Parents' Perspectives, Parents' Priorities* examines 21,309 parent responses to Speak Up Survey 2008 that was administered online between October and December of 2008. The survey included foundation questions about technology use, 21st century skills and schools of the future, as well as emerging technology (online learning, mobile devices, and digital content), science instruction and global competitiveness, and the challenges facing administrators. Among the findings: 34% of parent responders agreed that the technology skills their children were learning were acceptable and about one-third thought schools were doing a good job of preparing students for jobs in the 21st century.

Transforming Learning with Innovative Uses of Technology

<http://www.digitalpromise.org/Files/Apple.pdf>

The white paper *Digital Promise: Transforming Learning with Innovative Uses of Technology* describes how investment in technology tools, network access, professional development, and new personalized curricula can help schools address each of ARRA's four reform goals and simultaneously modernize them to meet the needs of 21st century learners. Innovative examples of how technology can be used to promote literacy and to engage struggling learners are offered, along with a variety of related resources.

Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds

<http://www.kff.org/entmedia/upload/Executive-Summary-Generation-M-Media-in-the-Lives-of-8-18-Year-olds.pdf>

Generation M2, the third in a series of large-scale, nationally representative surveys by the Kaiser Family Foundation about young people's media use, includes data from three time periods: 1999, 2004, and 2009. This report is based on a survey of 2,000 students, ages 8 to 18, conducted between October 2008 and May 2009, and on seven-day media use diaries completed by a subsample of 700 respondents. The study found that children's access to mobile technology – mobile device ownership increased from 39 to 66 percent for cell phones and from 18 to 76 percent for iPods and other MP3 players – has enabled them to spend an average of nearly eight hours per day using entertainment media. The study also found that high levels of media multitasking also contribute to the large amount

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

of media young people consume each day. Findings suggest that in cases where kids are having to “power down” when they get to schools, the need for schools and teachers to revisit their methodologies, consider how technology has changed the way information is accessed, and learn how to integrate the technology that kids bring to school.

P21 launches Video21: 21st Century Education in Action

<https://thepartnershipfor21stcenturyskills238.eduvision.tv/default.aspx>

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) announced the launch of Video21, a new video-sharing community where users can watch examples from real classrooms around the nation that show 21st century learning and teaching, rate and share their favorite videos with colleagues and friends, and contribute their own videos to the Video21 community. So, what does a 21st century education look like? [Take a look and get started.](#)

Boost early math literacy with free DreamBox Learning resources

<http://www.dreambox.com/teachertools>

The DreamBox Learning software company is offering free digital math resources for kindergarten and second-grade teachers to use in their classrooms. The Teacher Tools include a variety of lessons using virtual manipulatives, as well as resources to support teachers as they use the online toolkit. Lessons are designed for a wide range of classroom environments.

History.com resources for commemorating Black History Month

<http://www.history.com/content/blackhistory>

In celebration of Black History Month, A&E Television Networks' History Channel and its companion web site, History.com, have compiled several online resources. An interactive timeline of milestones in United States black history ranges from slavery in America in 1619 to President Barack Obama's inauguration last year. Clicking on any of the milestones takes users to video clips and additional information.

E-RATE PROGRAM**Funding Year 2010 application deadlines**

- The 2010 E-rate **Filing window has been extended to FEBRUARY 19, 2010 at 10:59 pm.**

Funding commitments

- **FY2009:** USAC will release Wave 39 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) February 9. This wave includes commitments for approved Priority 2 requests (Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections) at 80% and above and denials at 54% and below. To date, FY2009 commitments total \$2.28 billion.
- **FY2008:** USAC will release Wave 79 FCDLs on February 11. This wave includes commitments for approved Priority 2 requests at 87% and above and denials at 86% and below. To date, FY2008 commitments total nearly \$2.45 billion.
- **Search tool:** Use USAC's Automated Search of Commitments (ASC) tool to search for funding commitment information by funding year (FY), wave number, state, and/or applicant name. See: <http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/search-tools/search-commitments/>.

FCC rulemaking

- The FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act contains a one-year extension of E-rate's Anti Deficiency Act exemption, foreclosing the possibility of any program shutdown in 2010.
- On January 21, the FCC announced that, among other things, the following item will be on the tentative agenda for the next open meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 11: An order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to enable schools that receive E-rate funding to allow members of the general public to use schools' Internet access during non-operating hours at no additional costs to the USF.
- Comments are due soon with regards to the FCC proposed rule to revise rules for the E-rate program to comply with the requirements of the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act. Comments are due to the FCC on or before February 18, and reply comments on or before March 5.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

Online registration opens for eMINTS Winter Conference and 10th anniversary celebration

Online registration for the annual eMINTS Winter Conference and the special 10th anniversary celebration is now open from www.emints.org/events.

Participants may register just for the 10th anniversary celebration event to be held on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia or for the entire conference to be held in the same location March 4 and 5, with a pre-conference program on the afternoon of March 3.

We especially invite all eMINTS teachers from the cohort groups over the past 10 years, their trainers, principals, superintendents and tech coordinators to attend the March 3 evening event. There will be a dinner, special activities and a brief program honoring those who have supported eMINTS throughout the years. Join us for all the fun!

Find details and register online at www.emints.org/events/winter2010.

eMINTS offers Cognitive Coaching seminars

Ever wish you could communicate more effectively with the people you supervise, work with or train? Do you find it challenging to help people solve complicated problems they are facing or to change how they are teaching or working with others?

The eMINTS National Center is pleased to offer an eight-day professional development opportunity for instructional coaches, administrators, teachers, mentors, professors, supervisors, eMINTS PD4ETS program participants, certified Educational Technology Specialists and anyone who wants to encourage self-directedness of others.

Find more information and register for the seminars - www.emints.org/events/cognitivecoaching.

eMINTS featured at world-wide seminar in London, England

eMINTS in the U.S. and Australia was featured in a special seminar held in conjunction with BETT, the British educational technology conference in early January. Presentations about eMINTS included references to all of the elements of the instructional model and how it is implemented in schools. Representatives from more than 40 countries attended the seminar and discussed the importance of technology in education and how professional development is key in supporting teachers as they use technology to transform learning.

Monica Beglau, eMINTS National Center Executive Director says, "It was an honor to represent eMINTS and all of the incredible work being done every day in eMINTS classrooms across the U.S. and in New South Wales, Australia."

See the conference program at http://smarttech.com/EMAILS/bett_09/bett_10_lma.pdf.

eMINTS events on the website

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – www.emints.org/events.

Contact eMINTS: Web – www.emints.org E-mail – emints-info@emints.org Phone – 573-884-7202

GATEWAY MEDIA LITERACY PARTNERS UPDATE

submitted by Jessica Z. Brown

Things look a little different on the **Gateway Media Literacy Partners, Inc.** website <http://www.gmlpstl.org/>. The group is celebrating the new year by increasing their dissemination of information about media literacy for K-20 and beyond on their website. The timing couldn't be better for creating awareness about a communities' need for media literacy on an on-going basis, and for helping educators teach the critical-thinking skills our youths require in an increasingly media-saturated world. To respond to this need, Gateway Medial Literacy Partners (GMLP) is proud to announce the re-launch of their improved website that provides expanded content from the media literacy front.

Gateway Media Literacy Partners Update, cont'd.

New features on the improved site include:

- Links to news and events primarily concerning media literacy education in Missouri and Illinois
- Regular content from GMLP bloggers
- Local academic papers that bring a "face" to the media literacy education landscape
- Institutional member links featuring info specifically addressing media literacy
- Media literacy resources for parents, teachers and the public
- Social media-enabled functions such as RSS, and "share this" on Facebook/Twitter
- GMLP committees and board meeting information

To sustain and grow their efforts to be content-rich, with information that is primarily but not exclusively focused on our region, the group asks that you not only visit the site but let others know about it, and join in the media literacy conversation. Consider the *GMLP* site one of your primary resources for media literacy education.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

MOREnet 2010 Advanced Security Symposium

The Advanced Technical Security Symposium on March 17, 2010, brings a diverse group of professionals from across the Missouri public sector who are involved with and interested in computer security issues. Conference attendees are from Missouri state government, law enforcement, community information networks, public libraries, higher education and K-12 schools.

The Symposium reflects a growing movement to pool information and resources to combat a common threat. Computer security issues, both network and host, are critical to any entity on the Internet. New questions emerge on a daily basis covering issues ranging from legal and technical to policy and staffing issues. Join the Symposium and share!

Take this opportunity to study key issues, learn new approaches, see new technologies, share best practices, and network with colleagues in an informal, relaxed setting.

This year's symposium will be held immediately prior to the 2010 Connections and HELIX conferences. For a reduced price, members may register to attend the Security Symposium and either Connections <http://www.more.net/content/connections> or HELIX <http://www.more.net/content/helix-1/>. Registration for the 2010 Advanced Technical Security Symposium includes access to the 2010 Exhibitor Fair and opening reception on March 17. See the Exhibitor Fair 2010 website for more information. <http://www.more.net/content/call-exhibitors>

Security Symposium Fees

MOREnet offers a discount for anyone who wishes to attend the Advanced Technical Security Symposium and Connections 2010 or the Advanced Technical Security Symposium and HELIX 2010. To receive this discount, register separately for both the Symposium and either Connections or HELIX 2010 then contact Sandra Monnig at conferences@more.net or (573) 882-0289. Your discount will be applied after your registration is complete.

- Early Bird Registration: Jan. 2 - Feb. 15 (Symposium only)
Members: \$125
Non-Members: \$175
- Combined with Connections:
Members: \$285
Non-Members: \$440
- Standard Registration: Feb. 16 – March 10 (Symposium only)
Members: \$160
Non-Members: \$210

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

- Combined with Connections or HELIX:
Members: \$360
Non-Members: \$510

MOREnet Connections 2010 Conference

Two decades ago, almost no one would have envisioned what technology would offer today. Imagine what we'll discover in the future! Whether you're an IT novice, a dreamer or someone with fond "memories of the future," Connections 2010 has something for you. Learn about cutting-edge technology, get inspired by our keynote presentation, interact with your peers and talk with exhibitors. Connections 2010 will give you the ability to confidently say "Bring IT on! I'm ready for anything!"

Conference Registration Fees:

- Early Bird Online: Jan. 2 - Feb. 15, 2010
Members: \$185
Non Members: \$285
- Combined with Advanced Technical Security Symposium
Members: \$285
Non-members: \$440
- Standard Registration: Feb. 16 - March 8, 2010
Members: \$220
Non Members: \$320
- Combined with Advanced Technical Security Symposium
Members: \$360
Non-members: \$510

For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.more.net/content/conferences>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010	Conference
March 7 – 9	2010 Pathways: Serving Students At-Risk on Their Path to Success Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/documents/2010PathwaysProgramFinal.pdf
February 8 – 10	Midwest Educational Technology Conference “Reaching Beyond the Cloud” St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO http://metconference.org/moodle2010/
March 17	Advanced Technical Security Symposium Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/content/security-symposium
March 17 – 19	Connections 2010: The Future of Technology...Bring IT! Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/content/connections
March 17 – 19	HELIX 2010 Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/content/helix-1

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, cont'd.

- May 2 – 5** **USDLA National Conference**
Hilton St. Louis at the Ball Park, St. Louis, MO
http://www.usdla.org/2010_national_conference/home.html
- July 22 – 23** **MoDLA Annual Meeting**
University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield, MO
<http://www.modla.org/>

GRANT FUNDING and CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

- | Due Date
2010 | Grant Program |
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| Opens for voting
February 1 | The Pepsi Refresh Project is hosting a grants program focusing on health, arts and culture, food and shelter, the planet, neighborhoods, and education. Each month in 2010, Pepsi will fund 32 projects, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Proposals are being accepted as of January 13, and full details are available on the Pepsi Refresh Project website: http://www.refresheverything.com/ |
| All teams must register by 1 February 1, 2010 All entries must be received by March 1, 2010 | Dash+ Contest http://fuelourfuturenow.com/contest/ The DASH+ national high school contest challenges student teams to use their science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to design a dashboard of the future that incorporates feedback mechanisms and supports behavior change to help drivers maximize fuel efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Contest is part of the Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE Education Program http://www.progressiveautoxprize.org/education , funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, http://www.energy.gov/ . |
| February 1 – 5 | National Green Week The Green Education Foundation sponsors the event. Win prizes for your school. Plant gardens. Promote waste-free snacks. Gov. Jay Nixon has signed a proclamation encouraging Missouri schools to take part in the Green Thumb Challenge.
http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=223 |
| February 1 | Student Achievement Grants Source: NEA Foundation
http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/student-achievement-grants |
| February 2 | Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Awards Program Now in its 18th year, ExploraVision is a science competition that encourages K-12 students of all interest, skill and ability levels to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. http://www.exploravision.org/ |
| February 5 | Sprint Character Education Grant
http://www.sprint.com/responsibility/education/character/index.html?id8=vanity:educationgrants |
| February 1, June 1, and October 15 | NEA Learning and Leadership Grants
http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/ |
| February 6 | Welch's/Scholastic: Harvest Grants funding program helps schools across the United States create fruit and vegetable gardens.
http://www.scholastic.com/harvest/ |

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- February 8** **Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation: Christopher Columbus Awards** program combines science and technology with community problem-solving. Students work in teams with the help of an adult coach to identify an issue they care about and, using science and technology, work with experts, conduct research, and put their ideas to the test to develop an innovative solution.
<http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>
- February 19** **Fiskars: Project Orange Thumb** Fiskars Project Orange Thumb grants Fiskars garden tools and materials such as plants, seeds, mulch, etc. to eligible gardening groups.
http://www.fiskars.com/content/garden_en_us/Garden/ProjectOrangeThumb/grantprogram
- February 22** **The 2010 Classroom Earth National High School Challenge** encourages teachers from all subject areas to incorporate environmental education into all subject areas through innovative teaching strategies. Teachers from around the nation can receive up to \$4,000 to make their ideas become reality. For details and to apply go to <http://classroomearth.org/challenge/2010>.
- February 28** **Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation Literacy and Education Grant**
<http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/bearhugs.aspx>
- March 15** **American Historical Association: Beveridge Family Teaching Prize** recognizes excellence and innovation in elementary, middle school, and secondary history teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives. Eligibility: K-12 teachers in groups. <http://www.historians.org/teaching/Beveridge.htm>
- January 25 through March 12** **PBS Teachers Innovation Awards**
Application and Complete contest rules:
<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/innovators/?contactID=159132404&gwkey=NVRWVQEMK5>
- March 26** The **PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest** encourages children in grades K – 3 in communities across the country to explore the power of creativity by writing and illustrating their own stories. Check <http://pbskids.org/writerscontest/> or contact a local PBS station for more details!
- March 31** **Captain Planet Foundation Grants**
<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>
- April 25** **MIT: Lemelson-MIT 2011 InvenTeams** foster inventiveness among teams composed of high school students, teachers, and mentors. Teams identify a problem that they want to solve, research the problem, and then develop a prototype invention as an in-class or extracurricular project.
<http://web.mit.edu/inventteams/about.html>
- April 30** **ING Unsung Heroes®** <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/Education/INGUnsungHeroes/index.htm>
- April 30** **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes** <http://www.barronprize.org/>
The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings and/or on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. Maximum award: \$2,500. Eligibility: youth 8-18.

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- May 15** **Earth Island Institute: Youth Award for Outstanding Activism in Environmental and Social Justice**
<http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=54>
 The Earth Island Institute Brower Youth Award recognizes young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. Maximum award: \$3,000; a trip to San Francisco for the awards ceremony, October 19, 2010; and a wilderness camping trip. Eligibility: youth activists ages 13-22.
- Sweepstakes runs through May 3, 2010** **Enter the 9th annual Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes**
<http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/wawl/> for a chance to win one of three grand prize wireless computer labs for your school, including 20 notebook or tablet computers, interactive whiteboard, mobile cart, projector, printer, wireless access points, portable document camera, digital camcorder, and a \$5,000 digital media grant from Discovery Education. 20 additional prizes include projectors, notebook computers, and digital camcorders, and each month one lucky winner will receive a projector from NEC.
- Enter once per day until May 3, 2010 at <http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/wawl/>. Share with your friends and colleagues on Twitter and triple your entry each day. No purchase necessary. For complete details, see the official rules posted at <http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/wawl/>.
- June 10** **National Endowment for the Arts: Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth**
<http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP11/LITA.html>
 The NEA Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth program funds projects that help children and youth acquire appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art, and ensure the application of national, state, or local arts education standards. Maximum award: \$150,000. Eligibility: school-based or community-based projects.
- March 15** **The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge**
<http://wecanchange.com/>
- Email toyotateach@jie.org to be notified** **Toyota International Teacher Program**
<http://www.toyota4education.com/>
- February, May, August, November** **Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs**
<http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants>
- June 1, October 15, February 1** **NEA Foundation Green Grants** This year the program emphasizes "green" projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. <http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>
- Variety** **Dollar General** has a variety of grants to assist schools.
<http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx>
- Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or** **Actuarial Foundation: Advancing Student Achievement Grants**
http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/for_teachers.shtml
 The Actuarial Foundation Advancing Student Achievement grant program brings together actuaries and educators in local classrooms with the belief that interaction with real-world mentors will boost student interest and achievement in math. The Actuarial Foundation can provide a local network of actuaries ready to participate,

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

two months prior to proposed start date.	as well as suggestions on how to integrate math concepts from the workplace into the classroom. Schools applying for grants will be given wide latitude in designing programs that enhance learning and create a "love of math" in each student. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: All schools willing to undertake a math-mentoring program involving local actuaries as volunteers are eligible. However, in order for a program to be viable, there must be a sufficient population of volunteer actuaries within easy traveling distance to make a regular program possible. Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or two months prior to proposed start date.
Ongoing	After School Advantage Program from GTECH http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/after_school.asp
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	Motorola Community Grants http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp
Ongoing	Teach@15 Award http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

Ongoing **Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants**
<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites:

An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian.
<http://foundationcenter.org/>

AT&T Aspire <http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7736>

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/>

The 2009-10 **Dell Funding Calendar**, published by Tech and Learning, can be found at <http://www.techlearning.com/article/21102>. Check it out for grant opportunities, grant writing ideas and strategy tips.

The online version of **eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>

Edu4U is a resource for people who want to enhance teaching and learning for all students with the power of technology. Find information, resources and fellow travelers to help achieve your educational goals. <http://en.community.dell.com/groups/edu4u/default.aspx>

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org>.

Electronic Learning, from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information.
<http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>

For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning**
<http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Fundsnet Online Services: http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=6
 Computers & technology – http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=4

Grant writing and funding resources are available at
<http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

The **grants.gov** site is a tremendous resource for educators. It is updated weekly and contains a comprehensive listing of federal grants for schools. <http://www.grants.gov>

Grantsandfunding.com offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>

Grantwrangler.com: online listing service of grants and awards for teachers and students. New mygrantwrangler.com is a social-networking site for both grant seekers and grant givers to share insights and experiences – <http://www.grantwrangler.com/>.

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

Helpforschools.com (sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education and Mid-continent Comprehensive Center) – “grants knowledgebase”–

<http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/login.shtml?redirect=http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/>

In each issue of **The Education World Grants Newsletter** <http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>, Don Peek from **The School Funding Center**

[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0\)/](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0)/) recommends a Web resource, book, software program, or another useful tool of interest to the grants community. This resource is a Web page from **Teacher Tap**, part of **Eduscapes**. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>

ISTE: Educator Resources: Funding – <http://www.iste.org/>

Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

MultiMedia Schools, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools>

National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>

NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>

Non-profit guides: “grant writing tools for non-profit organizations” <http://www.npguides.org/links.htm>

Northwest Education Technology Consortium (NETC): “Grants and funding”

<http://www.netc.org/grants/index.html>

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at

http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

SchoolGrants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

The Grant Guru <http://www.techlearning.com/article/15512> Gary Carnow is starting a new grant writing series. First up, Building Our Grantseeker’s Toolkit.

The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations. <http://grants.gov>

Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program

http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html

Technogrants.com – <http://www.technogrants.com/>

Top Grants You Might Not Know About <http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/editoria/116-grants-and-contests/346-hotchalk-grants-and-contests>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

THE Journal: Funding: <http://www.thejournal.com/the/topics/funding/>

The School Funding Center is a subscription based database for federal, state, and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's Successful School Grants, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country.

[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

Toyota USA Foundation

http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/

U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/>

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention <http://www.ojdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org>.

Contact RoundTrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us, or (314) 773-6934.

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

<http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>

Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org or (314) 692-1274, or read the New Links blog at <http://www.csdtechpd.wordpress.com>

The Fairfax Network <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/>, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming creates programming for educators to use in the classroom, and for public television stations and cable systems. The lineup includes quality K-12 enrichment, parenting, and staff development programs. Many of the shows come with additional resource information, teacher guides, and classroom activities created to fit seamlessly into the curriculum. Fairfax Network programs are free to schools, school systems, cable companies, and public television programmers.

Collaborations Around the Planet (CAPspace) is a social networking tool for educational videoconferencing built into the new Read Around the Planet registration system.

<http://projects.twice.cc/index.php>

Global Nomads Group creates education programs and media about global issues for youth using interactive technologies in the classroom, such as live videoconferencing and multi-media videos.

<http://www.gng.org/home.html>

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab. <http://virtualexpedition.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home2/00front.htm>

Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

HEC-TV Live! has announced a number of February videoconferences designed to provide students increased insight into the African-American experience in St. Louis and the United States. All programs will utilize primary sources and let students hear directly from historians and authors who have used those primary sources as well as individuals who have lived through the times and experiences being discussed in the programs.

- **Freedom Suits, Slavery, and American Justice**

Date: February 2 and 16, 2010

Times: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CDT or 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Grade Levels: 6-12

Cost: NO CHARGE

What were "freedom suits" and how did they influence the lives of slaves and their owners? Go back in time to early 19th century St. Louis. Explore primary source court records. Hear the stories of slaves seeking freedom, their lawyers, and their owners. Open a window on history and explore what you see.

More information including a more detailed description, program agenda, learning activities and related curriculum standards can be found at http://www.cilc.org/program_detail_new.aspx?id=3047.

- **Education and Integration in Catholic Schools: The St. Louis Experience**

Dates: February 4, 2010

Times: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CDT or 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Grade Levels: 6-12

Cost: NO CHARGE

In the 1940s, the St. Louis Archdiocese integrated its schools. Find out what it was like to live in those times and be part of that experience. Meet a nun teaching and a student attending school at the time. Ask questions of local historians. Go to the source and bring history to life.

For more information including a more detailed description, program agenda, learning activities and related curriculum standards visit http://www.cilc.org/program_detail_new.aspx?id=3064 or contact Tim Gore, Interactive Coordinator - HEC-TV Live! at 314-531-4455 or live@hectv.org

FROM THE MAILBAG**LoTi Framework HEATS up**

The Levels of Technology Implementation (LoTi) scale developed by Dr. Christopher Moersch, was developed to help teachers and administrators gauge the effectiveness of technology implementation. The focus for the work, originally done in 1994, has been updated to emphasize new powerful learning and teaching standards as well as the use of digital tools and resources in the classroom. A new framework, H.E.A.T. (higher-order thinking, engaged learning, authenticity and technology use) helps administrators and teachers apply the NETS*S standards to lesson planning, assessments, peer observations and walk-throughs. More information about the new tools can be found at <http://loticonnection.com/index.html>.

NBC Learn <http://www.nbclearn.com/portal/site/learn>

The education arm of NBC News is featuring **The Science of the Olympic Winter Games** - a series of short videos designed to unravel the physics, biology, chemistry, and materials engineering behind the Olympic Winter Games. Made possible through a partnership with the National Science Foundation, NBC Learn interviews athletes, coaches, and scientists in this original 16-part series.

Also available on NBC Learn is access to the global resources of NBC News and the historic film and video archive available to teachers, students, schools and universities.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- NBC News Archives on Demand for K-12 and Higher Ed, makes thousands of video clips available to teachers, students, schools, colleges and universities, and
- What's Your iCue?, a video trivia challenge that blends learning and gaming.

National Lab Day <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/national-lab-day/>

A new nationwide initiative to support project-based learning, is coming in May 2010. Volunteer science and technology professionals and educators will work together with students to improve America's science labs and offer inquiry-based STEM experiences in classrooms, learning labs, and after-school programs. Teachers of students in grades 6-12 can sign up to plan a science project, inviting an engineer or STEM-related professional to the classroom to oversee the lab, provide help, and help generate student enthusiasm.

National Lab Day, it is hoped, will become an annual event and also spur a longer-term involvement by science and engineering professionals in their local schools.

Interested in having an engineer visit your classroom? Create an account on the National Lab Day website, <https://www.nationallabday.org/teachers/new>, and upload your project request. Local volunteers can then help you meet your teaching needs so that your students can have a fun, more fulfilling lab experience. Professional engineers, professors and graduate students can also sign up as volunteers to visit and aid nearby schools as part of National Lab Day.

From the Center for the Book in the Library <http://www.read.gov/cfb/programs/>, part of the **Library of Congress** <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>:

Exquisite Corpse Adventure <http://www.read.gov/exquisite-corpse/index.html> Ever heard of an Exquisite Corpse? It's not what you might think. An Exquisite Corpse is an old game in which people write a phrase on a sheet of paper, fold it over to conceal part of it and pass it on to the next player to do the same. The game ends when someone finishes the story, which is then read aloud.

The "Exquisite Corpse Adventure" sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library, part of the Library of Congress, works this way. Jon Scieszka, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, has written the first episode, which is "pieced together out of so many parts that it is not possible to describe them all here, so go ahead and just start reading!" He has passed it on to a cast of celebrated writers and illustrators, who must eventually bring the story to an end.

Every two weeks, there will be a new episode and a new illustration. The story will conclude a year from now. To get bi-weekly updates with new Exquisite Corpse Adventure chapters, click on the subscribe link at the top of the page. "This story starts with a train rushing through the night...." No one knows where or how it will end!

From the free **Education World® Site Reviews newsletter**, published weekly by Education World®, the largest free, independent resource on the Web for educators. To subscribe, visit <http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>.

10 sites called the Best of 2009

- **NSF and the Birth of the Internet** http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/nsf-net/ provides a timeline of the history of the Internet. A multimedia exploration of the Internet from the 1960s to today -- and predictions for the future. Grade Level: 6-8, 9-12
- **The U.S. Treasury: Bad Credit Hotel** <http://www.controlyourcredit.gov/> is a game to help children learn about finance. Help children learn about maintaining good credit rating and about finances in general. Grade Level: 6-8, 9-12
- **Certification Map** <http://certificationmap.com/> interactive portal allows users to determine each state's requirements for becoming a teacher. Grade Level: Professional

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- **The Tenement Museum** http://www.tenement.org/education_lessonplans.html provides interactive activities from the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Lesson plans and activities, primary sources, and online interactive activities for learning about immigration from the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Grade Level: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **Gymnasium for the Brain** <http://www.gymnasiumforbrain.com/> gives your brain a workout. Puzzles, math problems, pattern exercises, and more to work the brain and sharpen the mind. Grade Level: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art** <http://www.carlemuseum.org/> explores the world of children's book illustrators. This site, from the collection of Les and Zora Charles, features works of art created specifically for children's books. Grade Level: Pre-K-2, 3-5
- **Dig It! The Secrets of Soil** <http://forces.si.edu/soils/> is from The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's exhibit about soil. Explore the importance of soils and how they surround and support people in obvious and hidden ways. Grade Level: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **Newseum: Today's Front Pages** <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/default.asp> features front pages of a variety of newspapers from around the world, and offers Internet users access to the original, unedited front pages of many international newspapers. Grade Level: 6-8, 9-12
- **Discovering Antarctica** <http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk/> is a "cool" site about the land of the penguins. This site offers a wealth of resources and information for teaching and learning about the continent of Antarctica. Grade Level: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **Out on a Limb: A Guide to Getting Along** <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/conflict/index.html> provides information about Conflict Resolution for kids. Online exercises dealing with conflict resolution. Teachers' guide offers lesson plans and activities to supplement and enhance the online resources. Grade Level: K-2, 3-5

Our Ten Most Popular Features

These are the weekly Lesson Planning features that teachers like most

- **Every-Day Edits** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/edit.shtml Teachers use these daily practice printables to build skills, cultural literacy, and test scores.
 - Animals A to Z http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/animalsAtoZ.shtml Grades 2-4
 - Every-Day Edits http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/edit.shtml Grades 3-8
- **5-Minute Fillers** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/fillers.shtml Forty volumes of fun learning activities for those moments when teachers have five minutes to fill.
- **Writing Bug** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/writing_bugs.shtml Story-starters grouped for special days, special themes, and anytime. Grades 1-5
- **Learning Game of the Week** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/learninggame.shtml Dozens of games for making learning fun.
- **Math Cross Puzzles** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/numbercross.shtml Build a wide variety of math skills with these math "crosswords." Grades 3-12
- **Hunt the Fact Monster** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/factmonster.shtml Build reading comprehension, cultural literacy, and Internet searching skills. Two levels: Primary Grades 2-4 and Elementary Middle Grades 5-9.
- **Mystery State** http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/state.shtml Share a clue a day to help students identify the "Mystery State." Grades 4-8

DOE Opens Lab Equipment Acquisition Program to High Schools and Middle Schools

U.S. high schools and middle schools are now eligible to participate in the Department of Energy (DOE) Energy-Related Laboratory Equipment (ERLE) program. For 32 years, this program has enabled institutions of higher education to acquire hundreds of millions of dollars in high quality surplus laboratory equipment from the Department's National Laboratories. Schools may acquire equipment by reviewing the available equipment list at the DOE ERLE website <http://erle.osti.gov/erle/> and completing an electronic application form. The ERLE website is hosted by the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information <http://www.osti.gov/> (OSTI).

SimpleK12, <http://www.simplek12.com/> offers free, *no-strings attached* products and services for school districts.

- Teacher professional development training

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- Student tech literacy assessments (SimpleAssessment)
- Windows 7 training
- Faculty/staff health and safety (bloodborne pathogens, MRSA, and H1N1) training

SimpleK12 knows technology in education is important, and that there isn't always enough funding to get the training and assessments a school needs. **SimpleK12** offers the chance to make getting tools a school needs *easy* (and simple). Visit <http://simplek12.com/free-offers-your-school> for more information.

From Converge Magazine <http://www.convergemag.com/>

57 ways to spruce up your teaching toolbox with some of the top education blogs, tweets, wikis and more, as voted on by educators in the Edublog Awards. <http://edublogawards.com/> On these sites, connect with other educators, see what's going on in classrooms around the world and find out about technology tools to use in the classroom. Below are a few of the winners. The complete list is at <http://www.convergemag.com/edtech/The-2009-Edublog-Awards.html?elq=20fb66a0012d48a4b204b41637cc271c>.

- Best individual blog
 - Winner: **Free Technology for Teachers** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/>
Google certified teacher Richard Byrne reviews free technology resources and shows educators how they can integrate those resources into their teaching. He also won the best resource sharing blog award.
 - First Runner Up: **Kathy Schrock's Kaffeeklatsch** <http://kathyschrock.net/blog/>
Technology administrator Kathy Schrock covers ed tech tools, techniques and tricks of the trade.
 - Second Runner Up: **Larry Ferlazzo's Websites Of The Day For Teaching ELL, ESL, & EFL** <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/> Provides links to sites that help educators teach English to non-native speakers, also won best resource sharing blog award.
- Best new blog Second Runner Up: **Teach Paperless** <http://teachpaperless.blogspot.com/>
Shelly Blake-Plock shows educators how to teach with interactive technology and provide real-world learning opportunities for their students.
- Best resource sharing blog Second Runner Up: **Jane's E-Learning Pick of the Day** <http://janeknight.typepad.com/pick/> features an ed tech tool each day.
- Most influential blog post Winner: **"Heads in the Cloud"** from Anseo.net <http://www.anseo.net/?p=1824> This post shows how one school uses cloud computing through Google Apps as a communication tool for the staff and board of management.

WGBH Teachers' Domain launches Biotechnology Digital Media Collection Development for Science Teachers

WGBH <http://www.wgbh.org/> Educational Foundation today announced the launch of the new Biotechnology collection on Teachers' Domain, <http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/biot/> the public broadcasters' free, online resource for teachers and students. Funded by a grant from the Amgen Foundation, these extraordinary digital media resources are designed to deepen the teaching and learning of biotechnology in middle and high schools throughout the United States.

Although biotechnology is one of the fastest growing fields, it is not always fully integrated into middle and high school science curricula. Biotechnology impacts our lives on a daily basis, from the drugs we take, to the food we eat, and to the jobs we do. This digital collection is the first of its kind on Teachers' Domain, currently used by over 450,000 teachers and students, across more than 74 percent of K-12 public schools in the United States. Digital video and interactives explore laboratory techniques used in biotechnology for treating disease and improving diagnosis. Video profiles of biotechnology scientists and technicians offer students compelling examples of available career pathways into the field.

From School Library Journal, 1/20/2010

To subscribe, visit <http://reg.schoollibraryjournal.com/newsletter/subscribe?nid=4302> The Journal shares these two sites a teacher might find useful in the classroom.

- **Memorize.com**, a fun online program helps students (big and little) create flashcards and study them using

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

the Memorize interface. The site offers editable starter flashcard sets on a variety of topics, such as countries and capitals, United States presidents, drivers license testing, and even the anatomy of the knee. Groups of flashcards can be mixed and matched, and since this is a Web-based tool, students will be able to review their flashcards from the Internet. Memorize.com has just added a diagram and map wizard that allows users to easily create and label these formats.

- **iMinds** <http://www.iminds.com/> provides knowledge bites (mostly 7 to 13 minutes long), on a huge variety of topics in 12 categories: ideas and concepts, politics, law and business, the arts, history, people and places, medicine and inventions, sports and action, crime, war and conflict, pop culture, science and nature, culture and religion, and mystery and conspiracy. The audio content is downloadable to computers, smartphones, iPods, and MP3 players. Pricing starts as low as 99 cents.

From the Education World Site Review Center <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/>

The following sites recently received an A+ rating:

- **Physics Front** <http://www.compadre.org/precollege/index.cfm> Fabulous site for high school, with a strong K-8 section. The Physics Front is a web-based area for teachers of Conceptual, AP and Algebra-based physics as well as teachers of Physics First and Physical Science. This material is meant to serve as resources to enrich the high school physics experience. The Physics Front is a service provided by the American Association of Physics Teachers and is partially supported, by the National Science Foundation. Review can be found at <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2006/r0106-16.shtml>.
- **IWASWondering** <http://www.iwaswondering.org> Showcases contemporary women in science. From the National Academy of Sciences IWASWondering offers young people in grades 6-8, especially girls, a look at the various careers of some of today's most prominent scientists. It is a companion to the publication Women's Adventures in Science Series, but there are enough free resources and content to make it worth a visit. Also includes interactive games and a guide for teachers. Review can be found at <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2007/r0107-26.shtml>.
- **Invention at Play** <http://www.inventionatplay.org/index.html> A Smithsonian site on the link between play and science, and encourages visitors to make connections between their own lives and abilities and those of inventors. The educators' manual, found in the resource section, includes background information, a comparison of children's inventive play and inventor's playful approaches, inventor's stories, classroom activities, invention and play quotations, issues in play, and teacher resources and references. Topics for the activities include making a tube telephone, choosing a bike, making a light bulb, and mapping animal behavior as well as activities in exploratory play, pretend play, social play, and play with patterns, puzzles, and problems. Included in the resource section is a guide for families. Review can be found at <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2006/r0106-02.shtml>.

From Larry Ferlazzo's blog <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/>,

- A wide variety of "collections" of websites, most recently about the earthquake in Haiti and the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Check it out at <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/>.
- The **American Revolution Center**, a great resource for US History teachers, <http://americanrevolutioncenter.org/> provides an interactive timeline about the American Revolution that includes short paragraph about clickable events on the timeline. Clickable images of artifacts include a description of the artifact and in some instances, a podcast about the artifact. Other resources include a quiz and a lesson plan search engine.
- **American Memory Historical Maps** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/01/american-memory-historical-maps.html>
- **US History Animated** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/07/us-history-animated.html>
- **A Video Overview of the American Revolution** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/10/video-overview-of-american-revolution.html>

Brightstorm <http://www.brightstorm.com/> is a provider of online study materials for mathematics as well as ACT and SAT preparation. The ACT and SAT preparation materials are not free, but the more than 2000 mathematics tutorials are free. The mathematics tutorials are videos featuring mathematics teachers explaining and demonstrating

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

how to solve mathematics problems, covering Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus.

Other math related items:

- **Five Sources of Fun Mathematics Games** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/08/five-sources-of-fun-mathematics-games.html>
- **Math and Language Arts Games on Arcademic** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/05/math-and-language-arts-games-on.html>
- **Need Math Help? Try Wolfram Alpha** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/12/need-math-help-try-wolfram-alpha.html>

Pete's PowerPoint Station <http://www.pppst.com/index.html> includes free Presentations in PowerPoint format for over 50 topic areas, plus free Interactive Activities for Kids.

The FunTheory thefuntheory.com team explores the premise that if you make something fun, folks will, in fact, be more inclined to do it. See how they (and others) tested this premise! Use this site to inspire older kids, teens, and whole classrooms to try their hand at changing things for the better in your community by making mundane tasks fun, and consider holding your own FunTheory competition.

The Official Website of the British Monarchy <http://www.royal.gov.uk/> offers information about the Royal family and the monarchy system, including biographies of the royal court and family members who perform official duties, Royal Residences, Royal events and ceremonies, and a history of the monarchy system through the ages.

From Thinkport's Think Classroom <http://www.thinkport.org/CLASSROOM/default.tp>

- **Math Resources** Find teacher-created lesson plans, manipulatives, and activity suggestions for your mathematics classroom by using the general search above, or browse by math categories such as algebra and geometry using the search function. <http://www.thinkport.org/CLASSROOM/MATHRESOURCES/default.tp>
- **Lure of the Labyrinth** <http://labyrinth.thinkport.org/www/index.php> offers a new way to teach core math content. The pre-algebra math game includes intriguing math-based puzzles wrapped into a narrative game. Comprehensive educator support materials <http://labyrinth.thinkport.org/www/educators.php> are aligned to state and national standards offer teachers a way to engage students in quality learning, and include access to handy graphic organizers, correlated lesson plans, and helpful videos.

The Coretta Scott King Book Award Online Curriculum Resource Center

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/crc.cgi?id=1> —a free, multimedia, online database for educators and families featuring more than 250 original recordings with award-winning authors and illustrators and hundreds of lesson plans is a great reading resource as teachers, librarians, and families plan for Black History Month. The resource center includes more than nine hours of originally produced audio with Coretta Scott King Book Award (CSK) authors and illustrators talking about their books in two- to three-minute clips. Searches can be executed by author, illustrator, title, grade level, and curriculum area, as well as by the year or specific Coretta Scott King Book Award citation.

The resource center was recently selected for inclusion in the American Library Association's Great Web Sites for Kids! If you would like more context about the creation of this resource center, please see the blog post about it at <http://forum.teachingbooks.net/?p=2476>.

The Museum of Online Museums, MOOM, <http://www.coudal.com/moom/> is a list of museums that offer online exhibitions. Some include virtual tours and in other cases the museums online exhibits are simple photo galleries. Some of the notable museums featured include the Smithsonian, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

NEW eTHEMES

Careers: Nursing Learn more about the career of nursing, what benefits there are, and how to earn different nursing degrees. Compare and contrast the history of nursing with current practices. View photographs and a video of nurses

New eTHEMES, cont'd.

in action. Also includes the eTheme Career Cluster: Health Science.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002538.shtml>

Literature: "The Green Mile" by Stephen King These sites include information about the short stories that form to make "The Green Mile" by Stephen King. Visit his official website to learn more about this author and his books. Related video clips are included from the movie adaptation. Also included are a quiz, study guides, and websites that discuss literature and religion. There are links to eThemes Resources on Persuasive Speeches and The Death Penalty. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002536.shtml>

Missouri: Products Made from Mined Rocks and Minerals Learn more about rocks and minerals found in Missouri including galena, limestone, and coal. Understand the uses of these minerals by reading information from producers, where minerals can be found, and how they can be preserved. Search mineral databases, view maps and charts, and have fun with a word-find puzzle. Includes eThemes resources Missouri: Natural Minerals and Geology.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002534.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Response to Intervention These websites are about Responses to Intervention (RTI), an approach that helps educators detect students who have difficulty with learning at an early stage. Find out information about different models and strategies of RTI. There are articles for educators and parents, suggested strategies, as well as tips and best practices for school-wide and classroom implementation. Includes tools, assessments, intervention, and implementation plans. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002539.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Whales These sites are about whales. Learn about the characteristics, behavior, and classification of whales. Topics include the habitat, life cycle, communication methods, and migration. There are videos, photographs, and sound files. Several hands-on activities and online games and quizzes are included. eThemes Resources on beluga whales, endangered species, and ocean animals are linked.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001041.shtml>

Crafts: Around the World These sites include craft activities from other cultures. There are links to eThemes resources on U.S. Cultures from Around the World, Hands-On Activities, and Halloween Crafts and Games.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001614.shtml>

Holiday: St. Patrick's Day These sites about St. Patrick's Day include games, crafts, poems, e-cards, and clip art. Learn about the history of this holiday. Tune into a Webcam on March 17 to spy on a leprechaun. Play online games or print out word searches and coloring pages. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Ireland.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000294.shtml>

Literature: "A Boy at War" by Harry Mazer These websites are about the book "A Boy at War" by Harry Mazer. Includes reviews, activity ideas, and a PowerPoint. Explore links about Pearl Harbor and life on the home front during World War II. Includes links to eThemes resources on Pearl Harbor, World War II, and historical fiction writing.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001581.shtml>

Literature: "A Long Way from Chicago" by Richard Peck These websites are about the book "A Long Way from Chicago" and the author Richard Peck. Includes biographies, interviews, lesson plans, book reviews, activity ideas, discussion questions, a webquest, and more. There is a link to a booklist of other humorous books. Includes links to eThemes on text structure, character studies, story elements, and the 1930's.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001386.shtml>

Literature: "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry These sites are about the play "A Raisin in the Sun" and author Lorraine Hansberry. Some sites discuss the plot, theme, characters, and setting. There are many discussion questions and research activities for classroom use. There are also biographies on the life and career of playwright Lorraine Hansberry. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001026.shtml>

Literature: "A Taste of Blackberries" by Doris Buchanan Smith These are supplementary resources to be used

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

with the book "A Taste of Blackberries" by Doris Buchanan Smith. There are information about the author and related information on friendship, bee stings, and coping with death. Includes lesson plans, study guides, and a quiz.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000439.shtml>

Literature: "Al Capone Does My Shirts" by Gennifer Choldenko These websites are about the book "Al Capone Does My Shirts" by Gennifer Choldenko. Includes reviews, activity ideas, and discussion questions. There are also resources on several themes including autism, Al Capone, and Alcatraz. Find out how real children felt about living on Alcatraz. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001584.shtml>

Literature: "And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?" by Jean Fritz These sites are about the book "And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?" by Jean Fritz. There is information on the author as well as activities that go along with the books. Includes activities to go along with a study of the American Revolution. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Paul Revere, Revolutionary War, book activities, and story elements.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000541.shtml>

Literature: "Antigone" by Sophocles These sites are about the Greek tragedy "Antigone." Read the full text online. Includes summaries, discussion questions, games, and suggested classroom activities. Includes biographies on the author, Sophocles, plus information about "Oedipus." <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001172.shtml>

Literature: "As I Lay Dying" by William Faulkner These sites are about Nobel Prize winner William Faulkner and one of his novels, "As I Lay Dying." Includes plot summaries, discussion questions, online quizzes, character analyses, and classroom activity ideas. Take a virtual tour of Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on the 1930s. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000734.shtml>

Literature: "Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days" by Stephen Manes These sites include book reviews, online questions and activities. There is also information about author Stephen Manes.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000588.shtml>

Literature: "Blubber" by Judy Blume These websites are about the book "Blubber," author Judy Blume, and book banning. Includes a biography of the author, reviews of the book, a discussion guide, and excerpts from the book. There is also information about book banning because this was one of the most challenged books of the 1990's. One link leads to an audio clip of Judy Blume speaking about censorship. There are links to eThemes on whales, the literature theme of bullying, and an author study on Judy Blume.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001406.shtml>

Literature: "Bridge to Terabithia" by Katherine Paterson These websites are about the book "Bridge to Terabithia" and author Katherine Paterson. On one website you can hear the author read an excerpt from the book. Also includes resources on death, grief, and friendship. There are lesson plans, teacher guides, discussion questions, and worksheets that go along with the book. There are links to eThemes resources on bridges and friendship.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001603.shtml>

Literature: "By the Shores of Silver Lake" by Laura Ingalls Wilder These websites are about the book "By the Shores of Silver Lake" and author Laura Ingalls Wilder. There are discussion questions, lesson plans, interactive activities, and an excerpt from the book. Includes links to eThemes on Wilder's "Little House" books, historical fiction writing, and Laura Ingalls Wilder. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001402.shtml>

Literature: "Caddie Woodlawn" by Carol Ryrie Brink These sites are about the book "Caddie Woodlawn" and author Carol Ryrie Brink. Read about the history of the story and the person who inspired it. See the town in Wisconsin that serves as the book's setting. Includes online quizzes and activity ideas. There is also a link to eThemes Resources on quilting, pioneer food, and the Civil War.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000881.shtml>

Literature: "Call it Courage" by Armstrong Sperry These sites have information about author Armstrong Sperry and the book "Call it Courage." Includes lesson plans and activities. There are links to eThemes Resources on sharks, hurricanes, and Polynesia. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000990.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Literature: "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White These websites are about the book "Charlotte's Web" and author E.B. White. There are lesson plans, worksheets, quizzes, and student webpages. One website includes letters that students wrote to the characters in the book. There is also information about pigs. Includes links to eThemes resources on spiders, pigs, farm animals, friendship in literature, and other books by E.B. White.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001433.shtml>

Literature: "Choosing up Sides" by John H. Ritter These sites are about the book "Choosing up Sides" by John H. Ritter. There is information about the author's biography and books. Includes lesson plans and classroom activities to go along with the book. There is also information and activities on being left-handed and a link to eThemes resources on baseball. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002328.shtml>

Literature: "CON-fidence" by Todd Strasser These websites are related to the book "CON-fidence" by Todd Strasser. One website includes a videoclip of Strasser talking about his books. There are also links to the related themes of self-esteem and classroom elections. Includes a link to an eThemes resource on Character Education.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001415.shtml>

Literature: "Dear America Book: West to a Land of Plenty" by Jim Murphy These sites are about the book "West to a Land of Plenty" that chronicles an Italian immigrant family's journey west. Also has information about author Jim Murphy. There are links to several eThemes on topics relating to the book's themes, including covered wagons, railroads, pioneers, and Westward Expansion. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000549.shtml>

Literature: "Dear America: Christmas After All" by Kathryn Lasky These sites have lessons and activities for this "Dear America" book, plus biographies about author Kathryn Lasky. Includes information about the people and activities that were popular during the Great Depression. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the 1930s.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000870.shtml>

Literature: "Dear America: Voyage on the Great Titanic" by Ellen Emerson White These sites include author biographies, lesson plans, excerpts, and book reviews. Also includes information about the themes of the books, such as Historical Journals. There are links to eThemes resources on the Titanic and Historical Fiction.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001313.shtml>

Literature: "Dovey Coe" by Frances O'Roark Dowell These sites are about the book "Dovey Coe" and author Frances O'Roark Dowell. Includes interviews and biographies of the author. There are classroom activity ideas and discussion questions that go along with the book. There are also photographs of Boone, NC, and the mountains of North Carolina. eThemes Resources on American Sign Language, Disability Awareness, and the American Judicial Branch are linked. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001025.shtml>

Literature: "Flip-Flop Girl" by Katherine Paterson These websites are about the book "Flip-Flop Girl" and author Katherine Paterson. Includes summaries, reviews, and biographies. There is also information about some of the major themes in the book such as the death of a parent, living with grandparents, and emotions. Includes a link to an eTheme resource on the literature theme of friendship. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001457.shtml>

Olympic Games: Torch Relay These sites focus on the Olympics torch relay for the summer and winter games. Includes interactive maps, biographies of the torchbearers, videos, photographs, and answers to common questions about the torch. There are links to eThemes Resources on the summer and winter Olympics.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000577.shtml>

Space: Meteors Find information about meteoroids, meteors and meteorite. Learn about their differences, their origin and composition. The following sites include photographs, audio, animation and an activity.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001326.shtml>

U.S. Presidents These sites have biographies of the presidents of the United States and their wives. Includes information about election trivia, debates, and inaugural addresses, plus some online games. There are links to eThemes Resources on the executive branch and several individual presidents.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000030.shtml>