

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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Newline Submission Guidelines

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Ed-Tech and Safe Schools Programs – *Mid-Year Progress Reports Due*

- **Federal Title II.D (Ed-Tech or EETT) and ARRA Competitive Grant Programs**

FY10 competitive grant recipients must file mid-year progress reports consisting of four questions to be completed by the grant project contact, with input from participating educators, by January 31, 2010. Districts with “eMINTS” grants submit their mid-year reports via the eMINTS Leadership Moodle, while districts with “Other” grants submit their reports as attachments to email sent to instrtech@dese.mo.gov.

- To review the mid-year progress questions, along with other FY10 Reporting Requirements, see: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/documents/ARRA_Reporting_Requirements.pdf.
- To learn about the projects funded in 2009-10 and their end-of-year reports, see: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/documents/FY10TitleIID-ARRAProjectSummaries.pdf>.
- **State Safe Schools Program**
FY10 competitive grant recipients must file mid-year progress reports consisting of four questions to be completed by the grant project contact, with input from participating educators, by January 31, 2010. Reports should be submitted as attachments to email sent to instrtech@dese.mo.gov.
 - To review the mid-year progress questions, click on the FY10 Reporting Requirements document at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/about.html>.
 - To learn more about the grants funded in 2009-10 see their project descriptions at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/documents/FY10ProjectSummaries.pdf>.

District Technology Planning – Reminder of plans due for state approval April 2010

Instructional Technology mailed information in August to the 200-plus 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UMC updates online math practice site for college-bound students ▪ eSN Article on open-source tools to simplify research <p>E-rate Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Year 2010 application deadlines ▪ Funding commitments ▪ E-rate assistance <p>eMINTS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ eMINTS Rocks: Synthesizing a Decade of Change 10th Annual Winter Conference ▪ Calling All eMINTS and eMINTS4All veteran teachers ▪ Congratulations to Independence, MO Teacher for lesson recognition ▪ Monica Beglau invited to speak at BETT ▪ eMINTS partners with Intel ▪ eMINTS events on the website <p>e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online professional Development for Missouri educators <p>MOREnet Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security Symposium 2010: Security of Cloud Computing ▪ Connections 2010: The Future of Technology...<i>Bring</i> 	<p>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.</p> <p>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. See: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/.</p> <p>Census of Technology – Reminder 2009 Summary report posted on web The state summary report and a pdf version of the Census of Technology (COT), with final tallies from the 551 districts and charter schools and 2,250 buildings who entered data in 2009, have been posted on the COT website at: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/.</p> <p>The annual Census provides districts with data useful for local technology planning and evaluation – and to meet increased accountability and reporting required for ARRA-funded programs – and provides DESE with valuable information for reporting progress on meeting goals and objectives of state and federal ed-tech grant programs (such as Title II.D) and state and national ed-tech plans.</p> <p>STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS</p> <p>Ed-tech related Transform Missouri news http://transform.mo.gov/news/</p> <p>Transform Missouri is Governor Nixon’s initiative to create jobs and transform Missouri’s economy for the 21st century. Following are recent press releases of interest to educational technology leaders in the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Innovative plan to bring more science and tech companies to MO</u> December 16, 2009 - Gov. Jay Nixon today outlined a new initiative that will create stable, ongoing funding to attract and retain high-tech scientific and research jobs in Missouri. Read more... • <u>Gov. Nixon launches \$12 million initiative to train Missourians for high-tech, high-demand careers</u> December 14, 2009 - Gov. Jay Nixon today launched Training for Tomorrow, a \$12 million initiative to educate Missourians in high-tech fields and get them working in growing industries. These grants will help Missouri community colleges create or expand training programs to serve additional students. Read more... • <u>Missourians embrace free technology e-learning program to improve job prospects</u> December 1, 2009 - A recent partnership between the State of Missouri and Microsoft to provide free technology education to thousands of Missourians is striking a chord with job-seekers across the Show-Me State. Read more... • <u>Broadband Expansion Across MO with \$1.9 million Recovery Act Grant</u> November 30, 2009 - Gov. Jay Nixon announced today that the State of Missouri will receive more than \$1.9 million in a competitive federal Recovery Act grant as the first step to expanding broadband Internet service across the state. Read more...
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IT!

- Gale Custom Newspapers Change to Newsstand

Regular Featured Items

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities
- Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects
- From the Mailbag
- Newest eTHEMES
- Updated eTHEMES

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State and National News, cont'd.**MOREnet announces new executive director**

<http://www.more.net/content/news-122309>

John Gillispie has been hired as the executive director of the Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet). A unit within the University of Missouri, MOREnet links nearly 800 Missouri K-12 schools, public libraries, higher education institutions, telehealth sites, and state agencies. In his role as executive director, Gillispie will provide leadership and vision for the strategic development and management of information, technology and resources to support MOREnet's mission and goals; serve as the organization's primary liaison to sponsoring agencies, the MOREnet Council, state of Missouri chief information officer, legislative contacts and other constituencies; and participate with other research and education networks and national and regional advanced networking organizations. Gillispie will start his duties with the university January 11.

eMINTS showcased in eSN Video of the Day

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/emails/esntoday/esntoday120709.htm>

In this five-minute eSchool News video, Monica Beglau, executive director of the eMINTS National Center discusses a 21st century professional development program helping educators incorporate technology in their classrooms. A unit of the University of Missouri, eMINTS offers professional development programs designed to assist educators in using research-based instructional strategies, powered by technology, that engage students in their learning.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**CoSN issues new CTO guidelines for schools**

<http://www.cosn.org/framework/>

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) released an updated version of its "Framework of Essential Skills" for K-12 chief technology officers (CTOs). The CTO resource is intended to help school districts answer the question "what must technology leaders know to be successful?" and outlining a broader role for ed-tech leaders. As school leaders need to define vision and acquire appropriate skills in order to build 21st century learning environments; technology leaders must be empowered with the range of skills and abilities needed to position them as educational leaders – not just technology leaders – providing the district with the necessary vision and leadership.

The updated framework makes the case for viewing technology directors as part of districts' academic leadership, and can be used by schools in selecting and developing qualified personnel and promoting strategic technology integration. The framework is centered on the following four sets of essential skill areas:

- leadership and vision,
- understanding the educational environment,
- managing technology and support resources, and
- core values and skills.

FTC releases new cyber safety booklet

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/pdf/tec04.pdf>

A new booklet "Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids about Being Online," released by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other government agencies helps parents and teachers – of young children, tweens, and teens – steer kids safely through the online and mobile-phone worlds. The booklet begins by telling parents and adults why cyber safety is an important subject and notes that most kids are now participating in some sort of social network. One big theme, for example, is making sure children and teens know that there are consequences to their actions, and that just because something is online doesn't mean it's not in the real world.

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

There's also a section just for parents, which discusses parental controls and what parents can do in terms of internet filtering, blocking outgoing content, monitoring computer use, limiting time spent online via software controls, and steering their children toward kid-friendly browsers and search engines. The booklet finishes by giving parents and adults a list of online-savvy vocabulary and a list of resources for more information about cyber safety and laws.

A PDF version of the booklet is available free at OnGuardOnline.gov, the federal government's online safety website. At OnGuardOnline, parents and educators can download sections of the booklet, link to it, or post it on their own website. Printed versions of the booklet can be ordered in bulk at bulkorder.ftc.gov.

NCES releases Educational Technology in Public School Districts: Fall 2008

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010003>

This First Look report presents data from a fall 2008 district Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey on the availability and use of educational technology. This report from the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences includes information on networks and Internet capacity, technology policies, district-provided resources, teacher professional development, and district-level leadership for technology. Findings include:

- Some 92 percent of districts offered access to online district resources to all elementary or all secondary teachers. About 82 percent of schools offered server space for posting web pages or class materials to all teachers.
- Districts had written policies on acceptable student use of email (84 percent), social networking websites (76 percent), wikis and/or blogs (52 percent), and other Internet use (92 percent).
- Of the districts surveyed, 100 percent kept student data in an electronic data system. The percentage of districts that used an electronic system to keep each type of student data asked about in the survey ranged from 80 percent for transportation data to 100 percent for attendance data.

UMC updates online math practice site for college-bound students

<http://mathonline.missouri.edu>

The University of Missouri at Columbia has established several online mathematics practice, learning and evaluation drills for college bound students. The Online Math Tests website now includes testing and evaluation components for algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus readiness. There is a large database of problems in each area, allowing students to try multiple drills for deeper understanding and mastery. Immediate feedback is given for correct and incorrect answers with detailed solutions.

Schools and teachers can use the tool to assess their students' readiness in mathematics before coming to MU or any other college. Students in schools unable to provide specialized teachers to teach all mathematics courses can profit from the online evaluation facilities and as a self-teaching tool.

- The new version is now available at: <http://mathonline.missouri.edu>
- This site gives a sampler of sites linking to the UMC site: <http://mathonline.missouri.edu/sitesmathonline.html>
- Schools participating in MATHCOUNTS may find this site useful: <http://mathcounts.saab.org/mc.cgi>

eSN Article on open-source tools to simplify research

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=62008>

eSchool News published this article on December 1, 2009, discussing programs designed to simplify research and save valuable time for students and faculty. Zotero, for example – created by George Mason University's Center for History and New Media – allows one to drop and drag web page references into a massive and searchable database that automatically creates in-paper citations, footnotes, and a bibliography at the end of a research paper.

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

- **February 11, 2010:** The application window will close at 11:59 PM (ET) for applications covering the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.
- **January 14, 2010:** Applicants must post a Form 470 on USAC's website by this date to meet the 28-day posting period for competitive bids and submit a complete 471 by the filing window closing date.

E-rate Program, cont'd.

- **February 11, 2011:** This is the last possible date that a Form 471 can be postmarked or received by USAC.

Funding commitments

- **FY2009:** USAC released Wave 34 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) December 30. This wave included 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 \$1.9 billion.
- **FY2008:** USAC released Wave 76 FCDLs on December 28. This wave includes commitments for approved Priority 2 requests at 87% and above. 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/>.

E-rate assistance

- **MOREnet** provides free assistance for Missouri schools and libraries that includes website resources, email distribution list, webinars and other training opportunities. See: <http://www.more.net/content/e-rate>
- The E-rate consulting firm **Funds For Learning** has put together a list of seven key tips to help applicants navigate the often turbulent waters of the E-rate funding application process. See: <http://www.techlearning.com/article/25710>.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

eMINTS Rocks: Synthesizing a Decade of Change 10th Annual Winter Conference

The 10th Anniversary eMINTS Winter Conference planning committee invites the submission of proposals for 1-hour presentations and 3-hour pre-conference workshops at the annual eMINTS Winter Conference to be held in Columbia, MO, March 3 - 5, 2010.

- **New – student presentations**
- **Special 10th anniversary events**
- Online registration opens in December

Find details and register online at <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2010/>

Calling All eMINTS and eMINTS4All veteran teachers

Check out the new Veteran eMINTS and eMINTS4All online course to help keep your skills sharp. The new course is entitled "Talk is Cheap: Using Web 2.0 Collaboration Tools" – the course is six weeks long and is open to veterans in Missouri and all eMINTS partner states as well as Australia. Read more about the course, the cost to participate and how to register at <http://www.emints.org/programs/veteran/>. Hurry! Registration closes January 6, 2010.

Congratulations to Independence, MO Teacher for lesson recognition

Libbi Sparks, an eMINTS teacher at Chrisman High School in Independence, MO received a "Gold Seal" award from the Best Practices Network for her high school lesson plan "What is Affected by Global Warming?" Gold Seal Lessons are a tool for integrating rigor and relevance into daily instruction. Each lesson is designed to teach to specific standards/benchmarks/objectives and centered around a highly motivating theme, activity, or project. Lessons are typically multidisciplinary and deal with real-world situations or problems. Additionally, Gold Seal Lessons should challenge students to learn and perform in a variety of different ways. See Libbi's lesson plan (in the Best Practice Format) at: <http://www.emints.org/news/>.

Monica Beglau invited to speak at BETT

Monica Beglau, Executive Director of eMINTS National Center, has been invited to speak at a seminar in London associated with BETT – the European equivalent of NECC which has now become the ISTE conference here in the U.S. BETT is the largest technology tradeshow for education in Europe and is held annually in London.

eMINTS Program, cont'd.

The seminar, entitled "Learning Matters: ICT Strategies for Success," will be held on January 14, 2010. Learning Matters brings together leaders in education, government and business from around the world to share their experiences implementing ICT (Information Communication Technologies) for student success. In these sessions, educational leaders have the opportunity to participate and listen to prominent experts as they share how they are using ICT to transform classrooms and improve learning outcomes.

Dr. Beglau's presentation is entitled: "Building a Professional Development Strategy for Effective ICT Practices in Classrooms."

eMINTS partners with Intel

eMINTS National Center is pleased to announce a partnership with Intel and its premier professional development programs Intel® Thinking with Technology and Intel® Teach Elements: Project-Based Approaches. eMINTS is seeking designation as an Intel® Teach Affiliate (ITA) so that it can serve the State of Missouri by helping prepare "master trainers" who can in turn deliver the high-quality Intel® Teach professional development programs to teachers in their schools and districts.

The program has begun with the training of several eMINTS staff members and experienced graduates of the eMINTS Professional Development for Educational Technology Specialists (PD4ETS) program who serve as eMINTS Instructional Specialists in their districts. The Elements program will be integrated into the e-Learning for Educators: MO program over the next several months and additional online courses, beginning with one on project-based learning, will be added to the e-Learning course catalog.

Additional information and opportunities to participate in the Intel® programs will be posted on the eMINTS website in the near future.

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 – <http://www.emints.org/events/>.

e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS: MISSOURI UPDATE

submitted by Christie Terry

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online professional Development for Missouri educators

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri is a program for developing and delivering high-quality online professional development designed to increase teacher knowledge and skills to improve student performance. Experienced Missouri educators facilitate and develop online professional development courses for teachers.

Registration is open through Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Winter/spring courses begin February 10 and run until March 30, 2010.

Register online at: <http://www.elearningmo.org/register.html>

Courses Cost: \$125.00/course

Optional Graduate Credit: \$100/credit hour from **UMKC, UMSL, and MSU**

Learn more about graduate credit options at: <http://www.elearningmo.org/gradcredit/index.htm>

Winter/spring 2010 courses include:

- Personal Finance – FREE registration, plus \$100 stipend for those who qualify (see website for details)
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Elementary Classroom
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Middle School Classroom
- Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Elementary Classroom
- Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Middle School Classroom
- Teaching Writing in the Elementary Classroom
- Teaching Writing in the Middle School Classroom

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update, cont'd.

- Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas
- Differentiating Instruction: Empowering All Learners
- Rethinking Lesson Planning Using Backward Design
- Classroom Assessment Enhanced by Technology
- Getting Started in the School Library Profession
- Using Models to Understand Fractions
- Proportional Reasoning
- Water 9-1-1: Inquiry in the Science Classroom
- Advanced Web Tools 2.0
- The Complexities of Measurement
- Algebraic Thinking in Elementary School
- Geometric Measurement
- Teaching Electricity and Circuits Through Inquiry
- Using Observable Phenomena to Make Sense of the Earth, Moon and Sun

Contact e-Learning for Educators

Web – <http://www.elearningmo.org/>

E-mail – elearning@missouri.edu

Phone – 573-884-4233

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

Security Symposium 2010: Security of Cloud Computing

Registration opens January 4, 2010

Date: March 17, 2010

Location: Tan-Tar-A resort, Osage Beach, MO

The Security Symposium 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.

[Registration information](#) for the Security Symposium including early bird discounts is available on MOREnet's Events website.

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.

Connections 2010: The Future of Technology...Bring IT!

Dates: March 18-19, 2009

Location: Tan-Tar-A resort, Osage Beach, MO

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,"

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

Connections 2010 has something for you. Learn about cutting-edge technology, get inspired by keynote presentations, 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!"

This year's sessions cover a variety of significant topics to assist with your organization's IT efforts. Some of the topics covered include:

- Disaster recovery
- Virtual desktops
- Open source software
- Mobile wireless labs
- Microsoft 2008 server and Windows 7
- VMware

Registration opens January 4, 2010. For complete Connections Conference registration information visit MOREnet's [Connections Conference website](#). Don't miss the reduced early bird registration fee.

Gale Custom Newspapers Change to Newsstand

InfoTrac Custom Newspapers from Gale is available to MOREnet members as part of the Gale database package. Gale is moving customers from InfoTrac Custom Newspapers over to the newer Newsstand database. The content is identical. The move simply reflects an administrative change from Gale.

On Jan. 25, 2010, both Newsstand and InfoTrac Custom Newspapers will be available to MOREnet members. Newsstand will be added to the default list of databases for all members at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com> and is also available by linking directly to it at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/?db=STND>.

Both InfoTrac Custom Newspapers and Newsstand will be available for five months. On June 30, 2010, InfoTrac Custom Newspapers will be discontinued.

Information on all the online resources available to MOREnet members is available at www.more.net/online.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010	Conference
February 8 – 10	Midwest Educational Technology Conference "Reaching Beyond the Cloud" St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO http://metconference.org/moodle2010/

GRANT FUNDING AND CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date	Grant Program
2010 Preliminary applications due January 15	Digital Media and Learning Competition. The 2010 Digital Media and Learning Competition challenges designers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, researchers, and young people to put participatory learning to work on behalf of science, technology, engineering, math and their social contexts in the 21st century. The online application system opens January 7. Sponsored by HASTAC and the MacArthur Foundation. http://www.dmlcompetition.net/
January 15	The General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program will award 50 grants of \$10,000 each to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies throughout the country that offer innovative programs to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle. http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

January 15	The Dreyer's Foundation Large Grant Proposals (over \$3,000) http://www.dreyersinc.com/dreyersfoundation/large_grants.asp
January 22	2010 We Are a Solution: Youth Changing the World through Service-Learning Multimedia Showcase State Farm Insurance Companies Foundation and the NSLP at the Academy for Educational Development http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sl_contest_2010
January 29	Fund for Teachers is accepting applications for 2010 Summer Education Grants that give teachers the freedom to design an experience that will most impact their lives, their profession, and their community. http://www.fundforteachers.org/
January 29	President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities: Coming Up Taller Awards reward outstanding after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. http://www.pcah.gov/cut.htm
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 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 6	Welch's/Scholastic: Harvest Grants funding program helps schools across the United States create fruit and vegetable gardens. http://www.scholastic.com/harvest/
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/
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
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
August 19 through January 31	The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge http://wecanchange.com/

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

February, May, August, November Variety	<p>Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants</p> <p>Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx</p>
June 1, October 15, February 1	<p>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</p>
Ongoing	<p>Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/</p>
Ongoing	<p>Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/</p>
Ongoing	<p>ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm</p>
Ongoing	<p>Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm</p>
Ongoing	<p>Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/</p>
Ongoing	<p>Motorola Community Grants http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736</p>
Ongoing	<p>Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving</p>
Ongoing	<p>NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm</p>
Ongoing	<p>NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/</p>
Ongoing	<p>Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html</p>
Ongoing	<p>RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants</p>
Ongoing	<p>Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm</p>
Ongoing	<p>State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp</p>
Ongoing	<p>Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp</p>

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

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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.

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>.

Fundraising for Educators Web Resources (A site intended as a starting point for elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers who are interested in learning more about foundations, fundraising, proposal writing, etc.) <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/4edfrais.htm>

Fundsnet Online Services: <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=6>
 Computers & technology – <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=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/>.

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.com> 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>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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>.

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>

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>

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)

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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>

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>

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://virtualfieldtrip.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/home/31digest.php>
- **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/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

Free training and news from Thinkfinity

- **New Webinar for School Administrators: Leading with Verizon Thinkfinity** The Verizon Thinkfinity Professional Development team has launched a new Webinar aimed at providing school, campus and district leaders with information about Thinkfinity resources, how they can help enhance teaching and learning in the 21st century classroom, and opportunities for teachers to receive training. Register for **School Administrators: Leading with Verizon Thinkfinity** today at <http://tims.thinkfinity.org/CourseSessions/coursespecificregistration.aspx?CourseID=104>
- **New On-Demand Webinars for Educators** The Professional Development team has also just launched pre-recorded versions of its free Webinars that can be viewed any time. Currently, the following sessions are offered:
 - **Strategies for Sharing Verizon Thinkfinity**
<http://tims.thinkfinity.org/CourseSessions/coursespecificregistration.aspx?CourseID=106>
 - **Think Possibilities-Verizon Thinkfinity's FREE Online Tools!**
<http://tims.thinkfinity.org/CourseSessions/coursespecificregistration.aspx?CourseID=105>
 - **Reaching 21st Century Students with Verizon Thinkfinity**
<http://tims.thinkfinity.org/CourseSessions/coursespecificregistration.aspx?CourseID=107>

See the full list of Webinars http://www.thinkfinity.org/pd/national_training.aspx offered through Verizon Thinkfinity.
- **Practice your fractions with Dig It and Drop Zone! from Illuminations' Calculation Nation™**
 - **Dig It** <http://www.calculationnation.com/Games/GameDirections.aspx?GameId=c8c8c8c8-624d-4cdd-b761-7e0b364404e1#DirectionsGeneral> challenges players to create and locate fractions along a number line. By locating the correct number on the line, players collect shovels of dirt with hidden gems.
 - In **Drop Zone**, <http://www.calculationnation.com/Games/GameDirections.aspx?GameId=877f5633-4a8d-42cf-ad33-81a4d4515cf0> players load their launcher with a variety of bars as they attempt to reach a sum of 1. Be careful! Your opponent may use their bars to block your efforts.
- **New Science and Health Curriculum from AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) and Science NetLinks** <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/alcohol/index.php> *The Science Inside Alcohol Project* <http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/ScienceInside/alcohol/> is a science and health curriculum on how alcohol affects the human body. Designed for middle school students and their families, includes a booklet for parents. Check out the resources at <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/alcohol/index.php>
- **Thinkfinity Partners redesign websites ReadWriteThink**, <http://www.readwritethink.org/> **EDSITEment** <http://edsitement.neh.gov/> and **Xpeditions** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/> will unveil their new, redesigned websites in the new year! Be sure to check them out and read more about them in the January Thinkfinity Newsletter.
- **More about Thinkfinity** Thinkfinity.org is the free, comprehensive digital learning platform built upon the merger of two acclaimed programs Verizon MarcoPolo and the Thinkfinity Literacy Network. Thinkfinity draws upon the strength of their content partners, <http://www.thinkfinity.org/partners.aspx> who produce a wealth of discipline-specific, standards-based educational resources. They are:
 - American Association for the Advancement of Science
 - Council for Economic Education
 - International Reading Association
 - National Center for Family Literacy
 - National Council of Teachers of English
 - National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
 - National Endowment for the Humanities
 - National Geographic Society
 - ProLiteracy
 - Smithsonian National Museum of American History
 - The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Thinkfinity.org makes it easy for educators to enhance their classroom instruction with lesson plans, interactive activities and other online resources. Thinkfinity.org also provides a wealth of educational and literacy resources for students, parents and after-school programs.

All of Thinkfinity.org's 55,000 standards-based K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools and reference materials are reviewed by the nation's leading education organizations to ensure that content is

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

accurate, up-to-date, unbiased and appropriate for students.

At Thinkfinity.org, find primary source materials, interactive student resources and grade-specific research lists to help you tailor materials to meet your needs. Start exploring now!

Tour of the Cell from the National Science Foundation

<http://www.nsf.gov/news/overviews/biology/interactive.jsp>

A cell might be the smallest unit of life, but there's a tremendous amount of activity going on within this very fascinating place. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has created this illuminating and interactive visual feature to help people learn about the cell's different components. From the clickable illustration of the cell's primary components, including the nucleus, the cell membrane, and mitochondria, on the homepage, visitors can bring up a detailed illustration of each part, complete with a brief description of its function. Finally, visitors can also view the complete illustration by clicking on the "Full Illustration" link.

Discovery Educator Network SCIcon

On January 9, the Discovery Educator Network will sponsor a free online conference on using technology and digital content in science. DEN SCIcon 2010 is an online conference (with a twist) focused on providing participants with some of the most effective strategies for transforming their science classes through the meaningful and effective integration of digital media content. Join thousands of educators from around the world for an amazing day of professional development sessions, networking and sharing.

Saturday, January 9, 2010

9 AM to 4 PM ET

Drop by for an hour or stay for the whole day!

It's virtual and it's FREE!

Register at <http://links.discoveryeducation.com/denscicon>

Download an informational flyer about DEN SCIcon to share with your colleagues.

http://blog.discoveryeducation.com/scienceinaction/files/2009/12/den_scicon2010_flyer.pdf

National Lab Day for Hands-on Learning

As a partner of President Obama's recently launched "Educate to Innovate" initiative, National Lab Day <http://www.nationallabday.org/> will bring hands-on learning to 10 million students by upgrading science labs, supporting project-based learning, and building communities of support for STEM teachers. The effort is a partnership between science and engineering societies representing more than 2.5 million STEM professionals and almost 4 million educators, supported by the Hiday Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and industry partners.

HEC-TV Live! Presents Stories of Immigration

Dates: January 14 and January 21, 2009

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 does it mean to be an immigrant? What forces compel someone to embark on an uncertain journey? What is life like in a new and strange country? To complement a study of historic periods of immigration, cultural diversity, or recent world history, hear directly from recent immigrants to St. Louis. Meet recent immigrants to St. Louis who have come from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Also appearing are representatives from The International Institute, a St. Louis organization helping immigrants with their transition to their new life here. Ask your questions. Hear the stories. Join this compelling discussion of the most recent chapter of America's story of immigration.

Each program is viewable in one of four ways: 1) interactive videoconference; 2) view only videoconference; 3) online at <http://www.hectv.org>; 4) on television in the St. Louis area on Charter Cable channel 26 and on television nationally on UVerse channel 99. More details about the program including agenda, related curriculum standards, and pre and post-program learning activities may be found at the CILC web exhibit for the program at:

<http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2970>.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

Explore educational resources and activities from PBS from their library of Activity Packs.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/>

An activity pack is a set of educational resources focused on a theme and packaged in a widget-format that can be embedded in a class or social media web page. Each pack includes links to PBS websites and a set of activities by grade level K-12, and supplemental activities. Topics include

- **The Arts:** Themes include art history and music. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/arts/>
- **Health and Fitness:** Themes include sports, medicine, and community health. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/health/>
- **Reading and Language Arts:** Themes include American authors, poetry and Shakespeare. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/reading/>
- **Science and Technology:** Themes include oceans, technology & ethics, forensic science and earth day. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/science/>
- **Social Studies:** Themes include global populations, citizenship, the presidency, and democracy around the world. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/socialstudies/>

Create Your Own Museum Design Online! <http://museum.thinkport.org/>

Encourage students to design, online! Young minds will expand as students build their very own museum, select a gallery, and pick images from Thinkport's content bank. This is ideal for a variety of subjects including art, history, social studies, and more.

JASON Project launches free energy curriculum

A new science curriculum unit from The JASON Project enables students to explore one of society's most important issues -- energy--in a new distribution format featuring print-on-demand and other solutions for 21st-century classrooms. "Operation: Infinite Potential" is the third unit in JASON's new line of science curricula, following units on ecology and weather. Each unit fully integrates digital and print content in an inquiry-based approach to instruction.

<http://www.jason.org/public/WhatIs/CurrOIPIndex.aspx>

StudentSpeak Sneak Preview

Spotlight on Digital Media and Learning has announced the launch of "StudentSpeak," a new teen-produced reality series on how teens use digital media in their day-to-day lives. Every other week, students will take viewers inside their world, and show how technology is transforming how they think, learn and socialize. Watch the sneak preview produced by Ben Wolff at <http://vimeo.com/7783774>.

The **Connect a Million Minds initiative** <http://www.connectamillionminds.com>, launched by Time Warner Cable in conjunction with White House, plans to strengthen America's economic competitiveness by improving education and interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The initiative's unique website, <http://www.connectamillionminds.com/> uses zip-code search to connect students to STEM learning opportunities in their communities. The website also challenges parents, after-school program administrators and community members to pledge to connect children in their lives with the wonders of science and math. On the website, participants can watch video case studies of inventors and technologists talking about their projects, and post photos and narratives about their STEM experiences, creating a community of people who share a common interest and passion for scientific pursuits.

Peer Conflict: A Guide for Out-of-School Time Program Practitioners

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2009_10_29_RB_AssessingPeer.pdf

This brief defines peer conflict, how it differs by age and gender, what factors are associated with youth who engage in aggressive behaviors, and ways to reduce peer conflict. It includes specific questions to assess the prevalence of aggressive behaviors and peer conflict among students."

The 2010 Intel Schools of Distinction Awards are open for applications!

These awards recognize U.S. schools that demonstrate 21st century teaching and learning environments, and implement innovative programs that inspire their students to excel in the areas of math and science. Is your school one of these? To apply go to <http://www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/application.htm?iid=CAG1005>. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful work that you and your school community are doing for your students!

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- **What's new this year?** Eighteen finalists will be selected in April -- three from each grade range (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) in each of the two categories of math and science -- and all 18 will win a \$5,000 cash grant and a trip to Washington, D.C. for a 4-member team from their school and district. Six winners, to be selected from the eighteen finalists and announced at the Gala Awards Event in Washington, DC, will each receive an additional \$5,000 cash grant from the Intel Foundation and \$100,000 in additional products and services from the program award sponsors. One of the final six winners will be identified as the Star Innovator for 2010, and earn an additional \$15,000 cash grant from the Intel Foundation as well as additional services and products from the award sponsors.
- **Win A Free Netbook!** The application deadline is February 17, 2010, but those who finish early may win a free Netbook! Beginning in January, we will be holding weekly drawings every Monday - the first on Monday, January 4th and the last on February 1st. All applications that have been completed by the drawing dates will be eligible for the drawing.
- **Each year Intel** spends over \$100M on education programs in more than 50 countries. Intel's global education initiative is designed to meet the local needs of each country. In the United States, we firmly believe maintaining the country's competitiveness in today's global economy will in large part depend on the success of our nation's students. Whether it is to train educators on improved methods of teaching and learning or to engage student interest in math and science, Intel's education programs are designed to help students graduate with the skills they need to be successful in college and the work place. For more information on our program, please visit <http://www.intel.com/education>.

Google has announced its first ever **Google Teacher Academy for Administrators**. The Google Teacher Academy for Administrators, a FREE professional development experience designed to help K-12 educational leaders get the most from innovative technologies, will be held on Friday, March 5th in San Antonio, Texas. Each Academy is an intensive, one-day event where participants get hands-on experience with Google's free products and other technologies, learn about innovative instructional strategies, receive resources to share with colleagues, and learn how to apply examples from our innovative corporate environment. Potential applicants include educational leaders or decision makers including (but not limited to) school principals, assistant principals, state, county or district superintendents, technology directors or coordinators, and CTOs who actively serve K-12 teachers and students. For more information, please check out: <http://www.google.com/educators/gtaforadmins.html> OR, Apply before midnight, January 25th here: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dE1YmFfTU4zN1RQWDBpX20wb3BsWXc6MA>

A Celebration of Sustainability presented by RoundTrips, Washington University, and Edison Theatre.

Join them for this videoconference celebrating both music and sustainability January 21, broadcast live from Edison Theatre on the campus of Washington University. The musicians of ScrapArts, a contemporary music group that creates its own phenomenal music with instruments they make from recycled and repurposed materials will answer questions and share their love of music with students.

Date: January 21, 2009

Times: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. CDT

Grade Levels: 5-12

Cost: NO CHARGE

Program Description: The highly physical, wildly theatrical and thoroughly entertaining sonically driven music is sure to have you in awe. ScrapArtsMusic excites the senses with its intricate rhythms, raw energy, athletic choreography and the most inventive use of recycling today! Using scrap and offbeat materials from accordion parts to artillery shells, these one-of-a-kind instruments are as striking as their music is riveting. Interact with the musicians; learn how they make their instruments; hear them play; and share a project of your own school that exemplifies how you have recycled materials. Learn more about the musicians and their earth-friendly mission at <http://www.scrapartsmusic.com>. Cost for the program is FREE. More details about the program, including related curriculum standards, learning activities and program agenda can be found at it's exhibit on the CILC website at <http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2979>.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Ecology Learn about ecology and how plants, animals, and people are related within ecosystems and the environment. Included are lesson plans, statistics, interactive learning sites, activities, and games about ecology. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002524.shtml>

Effects of Human Interactions on Their Environment These sites focus on the effects of human interactions on their environment. Learn about human activities that can have beneficial or harmful effects on other organisms. Find out what you can do to conserve the environment. There are links to eThemes Resources on Habitat: Forests: Threats and Wildlife Conservation. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002521.shtml>

Literature: "Christmas Magic" by Patricia Hermes These sites include resources for the book "Christmas Magic" by Patricia Hermes. Also included are links to sites about sequencing, cause and effect, and making good choices near the time of Christmas. Fun activities include a visit from a Magic Elf and seeing if your name is on Santa's naughty or nice list. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002530.shtml>

Literature: "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes These sites are about the book "Flowers for Algernon" and author Daniel Keyes. Learn more about the author and adult mental retardation. Read reviews of the book, follow activities, quizzes, and lesson plans. Included is an eThemes Resource on mice. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002527.shtml>

Literature: "The House Without a Christmas Tree" by Gail Rock These sites have website resources about the book "The House Without a Christmas Tree." Also included are sites about death and grieving, the history of Christmas trees, and Christmas related games. As a related topic, there is a link to the eThemes Resource "Sarah, Plain and Tall" by Patricia Maclachlan. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002529.shtml>

Science Experiments: Christmas Science These sites provide ideas for science experiments to go along with the Christmas holiday. Includes experiments on ornaments, Christmas lights, snow making, snow globes, Christmas trees, and more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002526.shtml>

Weather: Weather Book These sites have printable coloring pages for students to create their own weather books. Includes sample weather books for ideas. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Weather and Literature: Weather Theme. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002531.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Author Study: Andrew Clements This is a collection of sites about author Andrew Clements. Includes several biographies and interviews that discuss his personal and professional life. Learn about his inspiration and ideas for his books. There are links to eThemes resources on his books The Report Card, Frindle, and No Talking. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002084.shtml>

Children Around the World: Child Labor These websites contain information about the history of child labor, and the child labor that still exists in the world today. Read about the different countries in which child labor occurs, what kind of work the children do, how much they are paid, and more. Includes maps, graphs, video clips, and interactive quizzes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001347.shtml>

Children Around the World: School and Daily Life These websites describe what going to school is like in different countries of the world. Includes typical school schedules, photographs, interviews with students, slideshows, and general information about different school systems. There are also websites that go through the daily life of children and teenagers in other countries. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001349.shtml>

Civil Rights Movement These sites are about the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. from 1954-1971. Includes several timelines with the major events of the era explained. Take an online tour of several historical spots. Topics include the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Little Rock Central High School, Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka. Read about civil rights leaders Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and a first-hand account of the Freedom Rides of 1961. There are links to eThemes Resources on Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Black History Month. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001084.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Civil War: Drummer Boys These sites discuss the role of drummer boys during the Civil War. Includes photographs and letters from drummer boys. Read about what their daily life was like and use lesson plan and craft ideas to learn more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000789.shtml>

Civil War: Union Soldier These sites are about Union soldiers and their beliefs about the Civil War. Read letters written by soldiers to friends and family members. See the uniforms they wore and other artifacts from the war. Participate in online games and activities. There are links to eThemes Resources on Confederate Soldiers, Drummer Boys, and an overview of the Civil War. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000373.shtml>

Classroom Design: Layout Learn here how to plan a classroom layout, how to place furniture, and draw a floor plan. The sites include photographs and schematic drawings. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001368.shtml>

Classroom Design: School Furniture These commercial websites offer computer workstations, tables, SMART boards, audio-video equipment, nontraditional desks, and other school furnishings. Includes furniture design specifications, furniture layouts, 360°QTVR photographs, and movies. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001363.shtml>

College Search: Learning Disabled Students These websites are about helping students with learning disabilities search for colleges with programs to fit their needs. Students can learn what steps to take when transitioning from high school to college and find information about individual schools. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002224.shtml>

Forensic Science These sites explain how forensic science and the scientists that study physical evidence and solve crimes. Many sites focus on fingerprints, hair fibers, bones, blood, and more. Here are lots of resources like games, simulations, case study, and articles which can help with teaching and learning. There are links to an eThemes Resource on espionage and spies. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000428.shtml>

Literature: "No Talking" by Andrew Clements These sites about the book, "No Talking" by Andrew Clements. Read book reviews and information about the author. Includes a site about the national Girl Talk mentoring program. There is a link to eThemes Resource on Author Study: Andrew Clements. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002258.shtml>

Literature: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson These sites provide activities to go along with the book "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson. Includes lesson plans, discussion questions, and classroom activities. There are links to eThemes Resources on works of Barbara Robinson "The Best School Year Ever," "The Best Halloween Ever," and Christmas Traditions in the U.S. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000534.shtml>

Literature: "The Report Card" by Andrew Clements These sites are about "The Report Card" by Andrew Clements. There are also some suggested activities for the book. Included links to eThemes Resources on the author and his books. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001810.shtml>

Missouri: New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12 Learn about the New Madrid fault line and the earthquakes that hit the area in 1811-1812. Includes maps, documents, statistics, and photographs. Read about the history of Reelfoot Lake, a lake formed by the earthquake. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Natural Disaster: Earthquakes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000012.shtml>

Native Americans: Adobe Houses These sites show different views of adobe houses and the types of bricks used to construct these houses. Includes instructions for building an adobe house model and also how to make an adobe bricks. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000180.shtml>