

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Missouri school districts are reminded of application deadlines for FY09 competitive grant programs: METS School and Competitive Title II.D grant applications are due by the end of this month and applications for Safe Schools Grants are due April 15. The presentation slides for the February 22 Safe Schools and Title II.D workshop information that was canceled due to inclement weather are posted on the program websites. Districts are encouraged to review the slides and contact Instructional Technology staff with questions about the application submission and review process, to contact the eMINTS National Center to discuss appropriate professional development implementation plans for METS and Title II.D grants, and to contact current grant recipients to discuss their successful planning and implementation strategies.

Providing timely assistance, TechLEARNING recently published Part 2 of its "Grant Writing for Beginners" series that presents tips for writing effective grant applications. Part 2 focuses on project goals, implementation timeline, and evaluation plan, as well as final editing of the proposal and writing a project abstract or summary. See: <http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.php?articleID=196605007>.

Reviews of the competitive grant application narratives will be conducted in Jefferson City in April and May. Missouri educators are encouraged to consider serving on the application review teams. This is a wonderful professional development experience to learn good ideas or tips about grant writing and project design. Department staff will provide the reader training and reimburse readers' travel-related costs. To sign up, download, complete, and submit a reader volunteer form – located on each program's website.

-- Deborah S. Sutton

DESE Budgets/Grant Programs

Education Technology Programs

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

Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

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

FY08 Update. A review of the January 31 mid-year progress reports indicates that implementation plans are running smoothly for the 14 participating districts.

FY09 RFP and district eligibility information were posted in January.
<reminder>

The purpose for these two-year grants is to help support eligible districts in implementing school-wide eMINTS projects to enhance teaching and increase

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student achievement. First-year applications are competitive and due March 31 (Year 2 continuation grant applications are due May 1). Responsive first-year applications will be reviewed by a panel of Missouri educators in mid-April and informed of tentative funding decisions by mid-May. **Note that grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

Program Changes – There are two changes to the program guidelines and rules for FY09. Districts will compete in four (rather than three) geographic areas and the bonus points for technology need points will be based on both Census of Technology and prior EETT funding data. The reasoning behind the latter is that grant funding reduces districts' technology needs, and districts with higher ratios of students to Internet-connected computers and/or districts without recent funding should receive priority status.

Information Resources – The canceled February 22 workshop will not be rescheduled; however, the presentation slides have been posted on the program website. Visit the website or contact Instructional Technology staff for additional information about program guidelines and rules. For more information about the eMINTS instructional model and available professional development programs, contact the eMINTS National Center or visit the eMINTS website at <http://www.emints.org/>. Contact current grant recipients to learn how other schools are implementing the eMINTS instructional model to meet local needs and interests.

State eMINTS/METS Classrooms Grants

<http://www.emints.org/communities/mets.shtml>

FY08 Update. A review of the January 31 mid-year progress reports indicates that implementation plans are running smoothly for the 102 participating classrooms.

METS School Grants <reminder>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instsrtech/METS%20School%20Grant%20Pgrm/index.html>

RFP information for the new FY09 METS School Grants Program was posted in January. In December, Governor Blunt announced additional Math, Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) grants funding to support three sub-grant programs. To build on the 100 technology classrooms in 100 schools created in FY08, Gov. Blunt recommended funding for school-wide grants to help schools implement eMINTS classrooms AND school-wide grants to support implementation of standards-based mathematics and science classrooms. The application deadline date is March 31 so applications can be reviewed by panels of educators in mid-April and tentative grant selections announced by mid-May. **Note that these one-year grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

Staffs in the Department's Curriculum and Instructional Technology sections will administer the FY09 METS Grants Program. The goal is to award 36 one-year, school-wide METS grants across the state: 12 eMINTS, 12 Mathematics, and 12 Science grants. Funds will be distributed across four geographic quadrants and three building/grade spans: elementary – grades K-6, middle – grades 5-8, and high – grades 9-12. **A district may only apply for one grant** (such as an elementary eMINTS or a middle school Science grant).

Workshop – METS program staffs hosted an information workshop on Thursday, February 7, at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City. Consult the program website

and workshop presentations to learn more about the grant program. Contact Instructional Technology with questions about the application submission and review process, eMINTS with questions about eMINTS professional development programs, and DESE Curriculum Services for questions about NSF-funded mathematics and science curricula.

State Safe Schools Program <reminder>

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

FY09 RFPs and district eligibility information were posted in January, in anticipation of funding renewal. The purpose for these four-year grants is to help support districts in implementing intervention programs and services to address the needs of violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive students. First-year applications are competitive and due April 15 (Continuation grants are due May 15). Responsive first-year applications will be reviewed by a panel of Missouri educators in mid-May and informed of tentative funding decisions by the end of May. ***Note that grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.***

Program Changes – There are several changes to the program guidelines and rules for FY09 based on an internal review and state audit recommendations. In brief, the changes affect grant amounts, district match, years of funding, use of economic need bonus points, and increased district reporting and program monitoring requirements. More detailed information about these changes is provided in the cover letter and administrative manual that are posted on the program website.

Information Resources – The canceled February 22 workshop will not be rescheduled; however, the presentation slides have been posted on the program website. Visit the website or contact Instructional Technology staff for additional information about the competitive Safe Schools grant program. Contact current grant recipients to learn how schools are implementing intervention programs to meet local needs and interests.

MOREnet K-12 Technology Networking Program (TNP)

<http://www.more.net/programs/k12tnp/index.html>

FY09 Appropriation Update

The Governor recommended level funding for FY09 MOREnet operations, which supports the K-12 TNP. At this level of funding, program expenses would exceed revenues and membership fees would likely need to be increased by FY10. However, the House Appropriations – Education Committee is recommending a \$3 million increase to help support infrastructure demands in place by MoVIP, eMINTS-METS classrooms, Telemedicine, and other programs that rely on MOREnet for Internet connectivity.

Technology Plans and Data Collection

Technology Plan State Approval <reminder>

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

DESE Instructional Technology has revised the 2008 district technology plan approval checklist and scoring guide. Revisions were necessary to better align with the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grant (**ePeGS**) system and to help ensure districts satisfy technology plan requirements under NCLB and Universal Service Fund E-rate programs. Copies of the revised documents are posted on the District Technology Planning website. To learn more about ePeGS, to keep up on what's being developed, or to provide us with input and feedback, see:

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/epegs/>.

Core Data Census of Technology – to be completed by April 15

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>

Districts are required to complete Core Data Screens 30 and 31 during the April Core Data Cycle. Screen 30 collects district-level data and Screen 31 collects building-level data. (All attendance centers must complete Screen 31.) The 2008 screens are essentially the same as those completed in 2007, with the following exception and special note:

The **Screen 31 Hardware and Support** computer tables may be revised to better align with the data the Department

needs to report to the U.S. Department of Education. [Note that it is still uncertain at this time whether these planned changes will be in effect for 2008 because of other priority jobs.] Instead of entering computer information based on processor specifications, the revised item would ask for the numbers of computers by date and location, with four "date" categories available: purchased in the last year, one to three years old, four to five years old, and six years or older.

The **Screen 30 student technology literacy** item asks for the estimated percent of eighth graders who are technology literate in 2008. The state's definition for student technology literacy is based on the Show-Me Curriculum Standards and the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS*S). Consult the Core Data Manual for the state's definition of technology literacy, and the October 2005 guidance document "Why do schools have to complete the Census? How are the data used, and how are schools held accountable?" that provides examples of how districts can make technology literacy determinations. Both documents are posted on the COT website.

It should be noted that the new Missouri Student Identification System (**MOSIS**) data collection will populate this item in the future. Starting this spring, districts will enter 8th-grade student technology literacy information along with the other achievement-related data that are collected via the June MOSIS cycle. The June 2008 data collection is a test-run where district reporting is optional and the data collected not reported to ED. However, districts are still expected to have in place the necessary policies and procedures that ensure students are afforded opportunity to acquire technology literacy skills – and have adequate documentation supporting the student technology literacy data reported during the April COT and June MOSIS data collections.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Report on Missouri Rural High-speed Internet Access Task Force

Created by the Governor last fall, and chaired by the Lt. Governor, the Missouri Rural High-Speed Internet Access Task Force collected information from around the state via various meetings and public hearings. In its preliminary report, presented February 1, the task force recommends eight steps to increase broadband accessibility in the State of Missouri. The first two steps include engaging a firm to analyze Internet accessibility and prepare maps for the current level and price of broadband access available in every corner of the state, and establishing a funding source (through either the supplemental or regular budget process) to engage a sole source provider or conduct a RFP to complete the mapping project. See: <http://www.lt.gov.mo.gov/ruralhsi/pdf/RHSIATPreliminaryReport2-1-08.pdf>

President Bush plans funding cut for ed-tech program (EETT)

The President has again proposed eliminating the Title II.D "Enhancing Education through Technology" (EETT) program. Part of the No Child Left Behind Act, EETT is designed to support the deployment and integration of educational technology into classroom instruction. Funding for the program has declined consistently over the years, from \$696 million in 2004 to its current level of \$267.5 million in 2008. In the administration's proposed budget released February 4, EETT was one of several programs recommended for zero funding.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2008 –

The FY2008 window closed in February.

Funding Year 2007 –

USAC released FY2007 **Wave 39** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) **February 26**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 83%. As of this date, Funding Year 2007 commitments totaled \$1.9 billion. See:

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2007/national.asp>.

On the day after the FCDLs are mailed, applicants can check to see if they have commitments by using USAC's Automated Search of Commitments tool at: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/>.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

CoSN report on Moodle

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) in January, as part of its K-12 Open Technologies Initiative, released a new report, *Moodle: An Open Learning Content Management System for Schools*. The third in a series of reports from CoSN's K-12 Open Technologies Initiative, this report describes how Moodle can enable teachers to develop online curricula and lesson plans, administer assignments and quizzes and participate in professional development activities from home, and provide students a valuable school-to-home connection which can maximize learning. For more information about how to download the report or to see the new website – which provides resources to help educators and technologists with the planning, evaluation, and implementation processes associated with Open Technologies – visit: <http://www.k12opentech.org>.

CoSN launches technology leadership wiki for small school districts

This new online resource for technology leaders in small districts allows users to not only learn from the resources provided by CoSN and other sources, but also to contribute to the site by adding their own best practices, tips, strategies, case studies, and the like. The wiki aims to help with systemic technology planning for districts with student populations of 2,500 or less in particular. See: <http://www.cosn.org/wiki>.

Microsoft launches online teacher network

Teachers across the United States will have the opportunity to communicate and collaborate with top-notch educators from all over the world through Microsoft Corp.'s Innovative Teachers Network (ITN), a new online forum that promotes the exchange of ideas and methods on how best to incorporate technology into the classroom effectively. ITN is part of Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PiL) initiative that provides resources, training, and content to complement classroom technology, complementing other Microsoft programs such as Innovative Teachers, Innovative Students, and Innovative Schools. The network aims to help educators, both new and experienced, realize they are not the only ones dealing with classroom problems or frustrations. See: <http://www.microsoft.com/education/PartnersinLearning.mspx>.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

eMINTS in Australia Three eMINTS staff members visited Australia Feb. 12-24, 2008, to provide PD4ETS (eMINTS train-the-trainer) type training to 20 Aussie instructional technology specialists who will then begin training eMINTS and eMINTS4All teachers in their home regions in New South Wales, Australia.

eMINTS staff reported having a wonderful time working with the educators who are preparing to become eMINTS instructional specialists. They include primary (elementary) and secondary (middle and high school) teachers as well as principals and other teachers and consultants (educational specialists). The Aussie group is very enthusiastic and has many of the same questions that all groups just learning about eMINTS have. Watch for photos and more information on the eMINTS website soon.

Fun fact: e-mail from eMINTS staff in Australia sent at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, arrived in U.S. staff inboxes on Monday, Feb. 18 at 8:30 p.m. Australia is 18 hours "ahead" of the U.S. so when it is 8 a.m. in Sydney it is 3 p.m. on the previous day in Missouri. To work that one out, visit the World Clock time conversion website and check out times for Sydney and Chicago at <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

This partnership is the result of more than two years of communication and sharing. eMINTS teachers and specialists in the St. Louis and Columbia areas allowed Australian educators to visit their classrooms and eMINTS professional development sessions and now it's eMINTS turn to visit colleagues 'down under.' We will introduce the U.S. eMINTS community (virtually) to our new acquaintances in Australia as their eMINTS project (called e-iTeach) grows and thrives.

For more information, visit the front page of eMINTS National Center website <http://www.emints.org> and click on the gold star in the lower right-hand corner of the new map of Australia.

eMINTS Winter Conference materials available Materials, including links to presentations, resources, handouts, etc. from the eMINTS Winter Conference will be available at <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2008/materials.shtml>. Note that all materials are copyrighted by their authors and/or the eMINTS National Center. To request permission to use or redistribute any linked items, please contact the owner(s) directly. Find podcasts from Winter Conference 2008, including keynote, sessions and interviews at <http://www.emints.org/podcast/wc2008>.

Podcasts from the eMINTS National Center Two new series of podcasts from the eMINTS National Center are now available:

- Podcasts about eMINTS include conversations with Director Monica Beglau about how to become part of eMINTS, the eMINTS instructional model and more.
- Pigtales from the 2008 eMINTS Winter Conference, including keynote, sessions, interviews with presenters and participants and more.

Don't miss new podcasts from eMINTS. Subscribe to an RSS feed to receive notifications or visit the webpage to download new episodes - <http://www.emints.org/podcast>.

eMINTS FY09 information and applications available New and updated information for FY09 applications for eMINTS professional development services is available. Find grant/funding information, eMINTS equipment specifications and FY09 eMINTS professional development program information. Includes funding information and documents essential to filling out grant applications. <http://www.emints.org/application>.

Find detailed information about both federal and state grant opportunities - Title II.D (EETT), Title I and Missouri METS School Grants Program. Missouri grant applications and information are available from the DESE website - <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instsrtech/>.

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 is a high-quality online professional development for educators.

Summer Registration will open no later than April 9, 2008

- Summer Session One begins May 21, 2008
- Summer Session Two begins July 2, 2008

Cost

- Individual-\$125
- Group of three or more from same building-\$100 per teacher

Scholarships

- All Missouri teachers are eligible!
- Scholarship covers half (\$62.50) of course fee
- Good for one year from award date
- Limit one per applicant

Graduate Credit (Additional cost - \$100 per credit hour)

- Available from UMSL, MSU, and UMKC

Courses for Summer Sessions

- Differentiated Instruction: Empowering All Learners
- Classroom Assessment Enhanced by Technology

- Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension
- Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas
- Supporting Literacy Development in the Upper Elementary
- Instructional Approaches for Teachers of English Language Learners
- Teaching Electricity and Circuits through Inquiry
- And more...

Custom Course Requests

- To request a course from our course catalog email terryce@emints.org a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the course start date
- Custom courses require a minimum commitment of 7 participants

Partners

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- Public Broadcasting Station KETC/Channel 9
- Missouri State University
- <http://www.elearningmo.org>
- University of Missouri

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

The Robots are Coming! Once again, MOREnet will be streaming the FIRST Regional Competition in Kansas City March 7-8, and other competition-related content to audiences world-wide! This real-time broadcast and some live, interactive videoconferences will deliver the excitement of the competition to classmates, parents, sponsors, other competitors, and interested viewers around the globe. Watch high-tech robots designed and built by students achieve amazing feats as they compete for a place at the FIRST Robotics national championship in April.

MOREnet member schools can participate in the event even if they don't have FIRST Robotics Teams! Students on the robotics teams use skills across many subject areas – geometry, physics, engineering, industrial technology, computer programming, communications and many others! Your students can have a chance to see these subjects come to life in the robotics competition!

Schedule a videoconference with a FIRST team at the competition and your students can learn first-hand about their experiences designing and building a robot, as well as competing with other students from around the country. Learn also how the FIRST experience has helped them in school, and how your school could get started in FIRST Robotics! Your class can watch live streaming video of the competition and other competition-related content.

Schedule a field trip to a FIRST Robotics Competition in your area. If you visit the Kansas City regional, MOREnet staff will be on hand to answer any questions. Visit <http://www.usfirst.org/> for a list of regional competitions and dates. Visit <http://www.more.net/mets/first> to see all the exciting activities from last year's competition!

To participate, contact the MOREnet Video Services group at 573-884-6986 or video@more.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

Internet Safety Night Back by popular demand – MOREnet is hosting another Internet Safety Night April 23, 2008 (<http://besafe.more.net/isn>)! Last time, we connected more than 1500 people in 79 locations around the country – and we need your help to top that number in April! We are inviting schools around the country to host events in their communities – and connect to the event in Columbia.

Our featured speaker for the evening will be James Finch, Assistant Director, FBI. He is the highest ranking FBI executive covering the area of Cyber Crimes, and we are thrilled he's agreed to join us to share trends in investigating and prosecuting online crimes, as well as how we can prevent cyber crimes in our communities. And once again we will have a panel of local experts for interactive discussion. Schools can host events and connect via interactive videoconferencing – or you can broadcast the live stream of the event to your local audience with just an Internet connection. It's so easy to get involved – and this issue is so important to students and parents.

For more information or to add your location to the event, e-mail isn@more.net or call Megan Gill at MOREnet at 573-882-0054.

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS UPDATE

MASL SPRING CONFERENCE 2008 Join MASL as they “Celebrate Success” with a Mardi Gras flavor at Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, Missouri during the 2008 Spring Conference from April 13-15, 2008. Join in workshops that focus on the librarian’s four roles; Program Administrator, Teacher, Information Professional, and Instructional Partner as outlined in Information Power; listen to Keynoters who will lift spirits, entertain, and challenge; explore Exhibit Hall; stroll down Authors’ Alley; shop in the Conference Store; enjoy the Mardi Gras Madness events on Sunday afternoon and savor delicious desserts at the Awards Reception after dinner. Party clothes help set the mood at the Readers Award Banquet as the winning authors are announced and the Truman Readers Award winners are unmasked. Pre-conference flier and online registration for the conference is available at <http://www.maslonline.org>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2008	Event
March 4 - 5	19th Annual Southwest Education and Technology Conference Missouri State University, Springfield, MO http://associations.missouristate.edu/rcet/
March 7 - 8	Missouri Association of Rural Educators Conference Port Arrowhead, Lake Ozark, MO http://www.moare.com/
April 2 - 4	Connections 2008 Annual MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/connections/index.html
April 2 - 4	2008 Higher Education Learning and Information eXchange (HELIX) Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/helix
April 13 – 15	MASL Spring Conference 2008 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO www.maslonline.org
April 20 – 23	2008 US Distance Learning Association National Conference Hilton at the Ball Park, St. Louis, MO http://www.usdla.org/html/events/conferences.htm
June 29 – July 2	NECC 2008 The 29th Annual National Educational Computing Conference Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008
July 9 – 10	2008 MoDLA Conference “Keeping Pace with Distance Learning” Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://modla.org/
July 12 – 14	SuccessLink Summer Science Institute http://www.successlink.org/curriculum/articles.asp?ID=192

July 17 – 18

6th Annual SuccessLink Technology Innovations Conference

Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO

<http://www.successlink.org/handheld/articles.asp?ID=19> or call toll-free at 888-636-4395 or (573) 636-4395

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**Due Date****Grant Program**

Ongoing

UPS Foundation Education Grants

<http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html>

Ongoing

Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html>

Ongoing

Adopt a Classroom Grants

<http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/>

Ongoing

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Education Grants Program

<http://www.hewlett.org/>

Ongoing

Educational Foundation of America Grants

<http://www.efaw.org/>

Ongoing

Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants

http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm

Ongoing

Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

Ongoing

Motorola Foundation

<http://www.motorola.com/giving>

Ongoing

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

Ongoing

The Starbucks Foundation Arts & Literacy Grants

<http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp>

2008

March 7

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program Grants

<http://www.grants.gov/>

March 10

Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants

http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm

December 31

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

<http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/>

For an extensive list of grants, check the Grants Directory from *Technology and Learning*

<http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

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/foundation/grant.php>.

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

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

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

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)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008	EVENT
March 1	<i>Newsline</i> published online
March 25	Articles for <i>Newsline</i> due
March 31	FY09 Title II.D Year 1 applications due
March 31	FY09 METS School Grant applications due
April 14 – 17	Title II.D Grant Review
April 15	Technology Plans due
April 15	FY09 Safe Schools Grant Year 1 Applications due
April 15 – 17	METS School Grants Review
May 9	Technology Plan Review
May 1	Title II.D Year 2 Applications Due
May 15	Safe Schools Continuation Applications Due
May 19 – 21	Safe Schools Grant Review

FROM THE MAILBAG

From Google for Educators <http://www.google.com/educators>

Google Inc. and Weekly Reader have teamed up to offer free tools and materials to help educators teach "digital buddy writing," in which two or more students work together from different computers to write and revise the same paper at the same time. "Revision writing is a critical piece of the writing process, and more and more, teachers are using the concept of working with a 'writing buddy' to help make writing more fun and collaborative, and to teach students the importance of having support throughout the creative process," explained Cristin Frodella, product manager for Google's education initiatives, in a recent blog post describing the partnership.

The free lesson plan, available on Google for Educators, contains tips and checklists—culled from teachers all over the country—for incorporating digital buddy writing into the classroom, using Google's free Google Docs online word processor. With this new curriculum, students can work together online to review each others' work simultaneously and watch as their peers' comments and edits appear instantly and legibly across multiple computers, Google says—whether they are in the same lab or in completely different locations anywhere around the world. <http://www.google.com/educators/weeklyreader.html>

The **Doodle 4 Google competition** offers young artists the chance to play around with the Google logo and perhaps have their artwork seen by people all over the world. The theme for the U.S. doodling competition is

"What if...?"

- *What if...I could live underwater, or in outer space, or in Colonial America?*
- *What if...I could see into the future?*
- *What if...I could build any kind of invention I wanted?*

However students interpret the theme, Google looks forward to honoring their creativity by displaying 40 finalist doodles on their site and inviting the public to vote for their favorites. The winning doodler will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and their design will take over the Google homepage for a day. The winning school will also receive a \$25,000 technology grant.

Registration information along with detailed lesson plans are at <http://www.google.com/doodle4google>. Registration closes on March 28th.

EdWeek has published a list of popular science websites for science and instructional technology integration resources. How many of them have you visited?

- **National Science Digital Library** The library, which is supported by the National Science Foundation, a federal agency with headquarters in Arlington, VA, houses an estimated 2.5 million teaching and learning resources. When K-12 and college educators and others search under a specific topic on the NSDL, the library spits out a more narrowly focused set of hits than users would receive through a general search engine, officials of the digital library say.

One popular NSDL tool is "Pathways," a series of Web links, arranged by the library in cooperation with outside organizations, which offer specialized information grouped by topic, grade level, or some other designation. Available pathways include those for biological sciences, chemistry, multimedia resources, and computer sciences. NSDL officials, who review material before it is put online, will sometimes remove content if it is outdated or otherwise inappropriate, Howe says. A majority of resources on the site are free, though access to some links may come with a cost. <http://nsdl.org/>

- **The National Science Teachers Association** has made efforts to expand the science content and professional-development resources it provides online. That goal is an acknowledgment that the Web offers a more effective way of providing help to large numbers of teachers than in-person workshops and seminars, says NSTA Executive Director Gerald F. Wheeler.

Two of the most popular online NSTA resources, he says, are "SciLinks," which offers teachers connections between textbook topics and NSTA-approved Web resources, and "SciGuides," a collection of Web lesson plans, activities, and other resources, organized by topic, aligned to prominent national science education standards. The NSTA site, at <http://www.nsta.org>, also offers journal articles and book chapters, some free and others at a cost.

- At **Teachers' Domain**, developed by WGBH, visitors can choose from science topics and subtopics. Each link provides a short background scientific essay, a series of discussion questions for students, and videos. One such link, on the science of tsunamis, has teachers and students click on various points on a map of the Indian Ocean, the site of the devastating 2004 tsunami. They can access visual presentations on the height of the tsunami's waves, the way they raced across the ocean at "near jetliner speed," and the science of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra that caused the event. <http://www.teachersdomain.org>
- **The National Center for Technology Innovation** (NCTI) was established to improve the use of educational technology for all students, even though its special focus is on individuals with disabilities. Its emphasis on "all" is worth noting because often technologies that prove successful with special-needs students turn out to be equally effective for students who do not have those needs. That is why ed. tech. leaders should keep a close eye on this site.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's office of special education and located at the American Institutes for Research, the center's primary purpose is to bring together educators, administrators, policymakers, technology developers, and vendors to determine how technology can be used to improve learning for special-needs students. To accomplish that goal, it offers access to experts and participation in online discussions about emerging technologies, provides an online database of more than 700 special

education technology projects, and has a service called TechMatrix to help educators find useful technology tools and research on math, reading, writing, and assistive technologies. <http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/>

- **Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation** has some useful features. The best one may be a daily news feed of articles about such computing and laptop programs. This news source is that it is very focused and uses a nice mix of sources, from the BBC to Information Week to the Birmingham News in Alabama. The site also maintains a national database of one-to-one computing programs in schools. <http://www.aalf.org/>

Thinkfinity Edutopia magazine, a publication of the George Lucas Educational Foundation, rated Thinkfinity.org as the top site for downloading free lesson plans and other educational materials. The rating was based on a survey of Edutopia readers. Previously known as MarcoPolo, Thinkfinity, the Verizon Foundation's online education portal, features more than 55,000 resources for K-12 education, including standards-based lesson plans. <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>

The Missouri Botanical Garden offers a range of courses and workshops in botany, biology, ecology, environmental studies and science education during both the school year and the summer. Some schools and districts may count garden professional development toward district-required professional development units. For more information about teacher training programs, call (314) 577-5147 or e-mail teachertraining@mobot.org.

For other professional development opportunities, see Missouri Botanical Garden's Workshop for Teachers site at <http://www.mobot.org/education/workshops.asp>.

- **GEMS Leadership Workshop** Discover Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS), guided discovery math and science curriculum units tested and used in classrooms nationwide. Learn to involve students in hands-on experimentation by using easily obtained, inexpensive materials. "Schoolyard Ecology" which develops sampling and mapping of a school site, and related writing and math skills in students will be investigated. The kit "Environmental Detectives," in which students consider the complexity of environmental problems, will also be taught. Butterflies, ants, bees and ladybugs will all be explored using four different kits designed for early elementary teachers. Assessment strategies and literacy connections will be covered along with a number of GEMS units.
Teachers: grades K–8
Date: July 22–24, 2008
Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Location: MBG
Fee: \$180 (includes your choice of 3 GEMS guides, the GEMS leadership handbook, and lunch each day)
Credit: 1 graduate credit hour available
- **Inquiry around the Garden** In this four-day workshop, teachers will visit four sites all operated by the Missouri Botanical Garden. Learn how best to use each location for a field trip for students and discover the unique resources available at each place. Observe animal behavior at the Butterfly House, learn about testing water quality at Shaw Nature Reserve, discover ways to encourage sustainability both at home and school at EarthWays Center and explore plant adaptations at MBG. An overnight at the Dana Brown Education Center at Shaw Nature Reserve is an optional addition and a great way to end the experience. This overnight includes a guided night hike.
Teachers: grades K–8
Date: June 16–19, 2008
Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Location: MBG, BH, EWC, and SNR
Fee: \$40 (covers lunch each day)
Credit: 2 graduate credit hours available
Optional Overnight: June 19–20 from 3 p.m.–10 a.m. at the Shaw Nature Reserve
Overnight Fee: \$35 includes lodging, dinner and breakfast
- **Classroom Inquiry** In this week-long institute, dive into inquiry, increasing both your understanding and use of inquiry-based learning. Compare different approaches to hands-on science. Learn how to guide your students in developing the thinking and reasoning skills needed to make sense of the world around them. While learning the phases of inquiry, participants will learn how to modify their own curriculum materials and lesson

plans to make use of this powerful approach to learning. This program is based on the renowned San Francisco Exploratorium's "Institute for Inquiry." All activities are aligned to the Missouri Grade Level Expectation's Science Strand 7 (Inquiry) as well as other various content areas. Space is limited. Reserve your spot now!

Teachers: grades K–8

Session 1: June 9–13, 2008 / Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Session 2: June 23–27, 2008 / Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Location: MBG

Fee: none

Credit: 2 graduate credit hours available

- **Introduction to St. Louis Ecology** Learn more about the ecology of the St. Louis region by investigating the prairie, woodland and stream habitats at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, located right in the middle of St. Louis. Participants will increase their understanding of local ecosystems, relate them to basic ecological concepts and gain experience in outdoor environmental investigation.

Teachers: grades K–12

Date: July 21–25, 2008

Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Location: LREC

Fee: none

More information: contact Eddie Jones at eddie@litzsinger.org

- **Sustainable Schoolyards** Turn a portion of your schoolyard into an outdoor classroom by engaging your students in the planning, development and management of a native plant habitat. This workshop is based on the Earth Partnership for Schools program developed at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Arboretum, where a number of teachers have successfully restored native plant habitats on their school grounds. The workshop is open to teams of at least two teachers from a school.

Teachers: grades K–12

Date: June 16–20, 2008

Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Location: LREC

Fee: none

More information: contact Eddie Jones at eddie@litzsinger.org

GIS workshop opportunities from the Missouri Botanical Garden include significant time to develop your own curriculum project to implement in your classroom. There is no registration fee for either workshop. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging costs. Optional graduate credit is available at an additional fee. To download an application, visit: <http://www.mobot.org/education/mapping/mapap2008.pdf>. For more information about the content of the workshops, please contact: Bob Coulter, Missouri Botanical Garden (314) 442-6737 or bob.coulter@mobot.org.

- **Mapping Your Community for Teachers Grades 4–12**
June 23–27, 2008, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
Meet your curriculum goals while engaging your students in studies of their local community. Participants will develop a curriculum module to take back to school that uses a place-based approach to education and integrates use of geographic information system (GIS) software and other resources to support student inquiry. A school site license for the GIS software is provided to all participants.
- **Mapping Environmental Issues for Teachers Grades 4–12**
June 30–July 2, 2008, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
For teachers with some experience using a geographic information system (GIS), this advanced workshop covers how to identify local data sources and process the data for use in an environmental investigation. Participants will take home their data and an outline for a project. This workshop assumes comfort with basic computer skills, including navigating folders and downloading and unzipping files.

Curriki, a play on the words 'curriculum' and 'wiki', is a nonprofit organization that is building the first and only Internet site for Open Source Curriculum (OSC), which will provide universal access to free curricula and instructional materials for grades K-12. Curriki focuses on developing an online repository for K-12 curricula in the areas of mathematics,

science, technology, reading and language arts, and languages. The hope is that everyone from educators, students and parents, to programmers, instructional designers, authors and public officials throughout the world will contribute or freely access quality learning materials provided at Curriki.

Curriki's approach is to focus on a complete curricula solution, not just a textbook or lesson plans, but a comprehensive course of instruction and assessment. Curriki includes easy-to-use tools for creating curriculum packets out of content assets available on the site.

Curriki is led by a seasoned team of experts in the education and technology arenas. Their experience as teachers, authors and technologists has given them the hands-on understanding of what it takes to make quality and easy-to-use curricula. Led by its Chief Academic Officer, Curriki will expertly manage the curricula to ensure the community makes the best decisions. The right leadership, tools, and community will enable the development and distribution of quality curricula. Curriki is working with a variety of partners to contribute a diverse collection of curriculum to their repository. They have recently added "templates" to enable users to easily contribute content and courses, and more of these templates will soon be available. Additional functionality and resources will soon enable users to contribute to and access open source textbooks, as well as have the capability to collaborate and to communicate about curriculum online.

Their unique online tools will allow teachers to share favorite resources with others; or, on a larger scale, write a textbook or build a curriculum with their unique Textbook Wiki that will enable groups of teachers or professors to take a curriculum framework and use the tools to create and edit a book map, or sections and pages of an instructional textbook. Curriculum Builder enables users to select individual lesson plans, course syllabi, learning activities, scope and sequence hierarchies, and other educational elements. <http://www.curriki.org>

SMART-created Lesson Activities on Curriki Website SMART Technologies has announced the addition of 100 SMART-created lesson activities to the Curriki global education and learning community, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing free education materials. The SMART lesson activities are cross curricular and cover subjects such as biology, chemistry, English, geography, history, language arts, math, science, and social studies. All lesson activities are developed with or correlated to state curriculum standards in the United States and provincial curriculum standards in Canada. The interactive lesson activities for Notebook collaborative learning software include embedded Adobe Flash multimedia files and colorful and descriptive graphics.

Curriki's use of open-source content allows users to comment, edit, and group together curricular materials to create a lesson. Teachers can adapt or revise lesson plans to suit classroom needs.

At the **Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies** website, find a number of freely accessible resources about learning trends, technologies and tools. The website includes:

- **Directory of Learning Tools** - over 2,000 tools suitable for managing personal learning as well as creating a wide variety of formal, informational and performance support solutions
- **Top Tools for Learning** - learning professionals share their Top 10 Tools for Learning.
- **E-Learning in a Nutshell** - a one-page overview of e-learning.
- **E-Learning Handbook** - guidance for those who want an introduction to learning trends and also want to create learning solutions quickly and easily using free and low cost tools.
- **Jane's E-Learning Pick of the Day** - a short daily posting of e-learning interest.

<http://www.c4lpt.co.uk/index.html>

50 Web 2.0 Ways to Tell a Story by Alan Levine is a quick way to check out some of the new web 2.0 tools being talked about (and to learn about some not widely known). Tool categories include *slideshow*, *timeline*, *mixer*, *comic*, *scrapbook*, *map*, *flickr*, *audio*, *video*, *presentation*, *new* (added after the original list was posted), along with "cutting room floor" – tools that did not perform as well as expected. To test the tools, Levine took a simple project, a story about his dog Dominoe, and used each tool to produce that story. The resulting product is posted, along with comments to give the visitor the opportunity to see how the tools operate, and if the attributes of the tool will produce the desired product. The site also includes short projects on other topics from site visitors.

<http://cogdogroo.wikispaces.com/StoryTools>

Scholastic Launches Children's Book Search Tool: Teacher Book Wizard E-Scholastic, the online division of Scholastic, has announced the launch of Teacher Book Wizard <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard>. The new

website enables teachers, librarians, and parents to search a database of over 50,000 books to find the right match for every child, according to reading level, interest, subject, and genre. Teachers and librarians can also download free lesson plans related to specific books. Features and Tools include:

- **The BookAlike** feature helps educators find book recommendations based on a title that their students already know and enjoy. They can also search for titles that are at, above, or below the original book's reading level.
- **Choice of Reading Level Systems:** Choose among the four most common reading level systems: Grade Level Equivalent, Lexile Framework, Guided Reading, and DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment).
- **Leveled Search:** Search for books by reading level, type, and genre to find titles for all students' needs and interests.
- **My Book Lists:** Create and save children's book lists to print, email, and share with students, parents, teachers, or librarians. Lists are customizable for classes or for individual students.
- **List Exchange:** Join the online community to share book lists and to see book lists from authors, experts, and teachers that can be saved, used and modified.
- **Quick Search:** Search by title, author or keyword to find book-specific teaching resources and books by topic.
- **Classroom Library Evaluation:** Build a better classroom library with the online Scholastic Classroom Books Evaluation Protocol. This research-based tool assesses current classroom libraries to ensure they include the right books—and right mix of books—for students.

Parents can take advantage of the same tools that teachers use to find appropriate and interesting books for their children, as well as share book lists with teachers and other parents. <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/home.jsp>

NASA Quest announces two new challenges for the spring of 2008 and a new mathematics unit for students in grades 6-9:

- **Cratering the Moon Challenge From NASA Quest** The Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite mission will search for water ice at the south pole of the moon. Finding deposits of water ice would be a crucial step in deciding where to locate a human outpost on the moon. In this challenge, students must design a lunar impact simulator and determine the optimal impact angle to get the most information from the impact. Registration begins in February 2008. Background references are available now at <http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lcross/>
- **LIMA Challenge From NASA Quest** In this challenge, students become scientists and propose Antarctic research. The Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica (LIMA) is the first true-color high-resolution satellite view of the Antarctic continent. Using this view of Antarctica, students must develop a research question and debate the value of studying the chosen feature. Registration is expected to begin in March 2008, but check the challenge site frequently for new resources to get ready for the challenge. <http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lima>
- **Moon Math! -- The Newest Addition to NASA Quest** Moon Math! is a set of two mathematics units designed for students in grades 6-9. The units are centered on the theme of lunar habitat design. Each unit is supported by paper-and-pencil activities, as well as an interactive software application. All lesson plans and software applications for these units are free and can be downloaded at http://quest.nasa.gov/vft/#moon_math.

Adopt-A-Pilot Education takes flight with Southwest Airline's Adopt-A-Pilot. Each spring, fifth-grade classes nationwide "adopt" a Southwest Airlines Pilot for four weeks. "Adopted" Pilots mentor students and communicate a key message: education is important in reaching personal goals. Pilots volunteer their time visiting classes either in person or via online opportunities and corresponding with students while flying their weekly trip schedule. Classes track their Pilot's weekly flight schedule while learning about U.S. cities, and can explore an aviation-related curriculum that covers geography, math, science, civics, history, aviation, creative writing, computer technologies, and research skills. In addition, the program addresses career-planning, and presentation skills with the help of Pilot mentors. Southwest Airlines provides the program curriculum (called the Flight Plan) that has been developed in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institute and other education specialists. Students learn core school subjects in a fun way and see how important education is in reaching personal goals. For program information and registration, visit http://www.southwest.com/programs_services/adopt/.

Microsoft, HP introduce new teacher exchange website Microsoft and HP have teamed up to introduce an online project called the Teacher Experience Exchange (TEE). This new website provides educators with a one-stop resource to discuss, share, and learn with other educators and to access tutorials for teaching with technology in the

classroom. Educators are encouraged to preview the TEE website and join the group of initial Teacher Advisors to provide feedback on proposed content, or simply pre-register to become a member and see some of the features to come. These features might include forums to discuss teaching techniques, get advice from colleagues, or share information; teacher-generated content and sharing of lesson plans, projects, and photos of classroom set-ups; and access to tutorials for teaching with technology in the classroom--including courses on Vista, XP, and Office 2007 that are available through podcasts and videos. <http://www.hp.com/go/TeacherExperience>

Microsoft Gives Students Access to Technical Software at No Charge to inspire success and make a difference. DreamSpark offers millions of students access to professional-grade software developer and designer tools. The Microsoft DreamSpark student program <http://channel8.msdn.com> makes available, at no charge, a broad range of development and design software for download. The program is now available to more than 35 million college students in Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S. Broad global coverage, as well as an expansion of the program to high school students around the world, potentially reaching up to 1 billion students worldwide, will continue throughout the next year.

Microsoft DreamSpark is available to all students whose studies touch on technology, design, math, science and engineering. The following cutting-edge software will be available to empower students to unlock their ingenuity by building critical skills:

- Microsoft developer tools. Visual Studio is the Swiss Army knife of computer programming. These professional-grade products provide a security-enhanced and reliable environment, enabling students to program everything from a cell phone to a robot or to create their own Web page. Students will also be able to invent compelling new gaming content and make their dream game a reality by porting their creations to their Xbox 360 console.
 - Visual Studio 2005 Professional Edition
 - Visual Studio 2008 Professional Edition
 - XNA Game Studio 2.0
 - 12-month free Academic membership in the XNA Creators Club
- Microsoft designer tools. This ultra-versatile suite of tools will enable students to vividly bring their creative visions to life in vibrant new website designs and more effective digital content, including animation, imagery and photography.
 - Expression Studio, including
 - Expression Web
 - Expression Blend
 - Expression Design
 - Expression Media
- Microsoft platform resources. The foundation for development and design platforms, these products deliver a security-enhanced, reliable and manageable environment for students to more quickly turn ideas into reality.
 - SQL Server 2005 Developer Edition
 - Windows Server, Standard Edition

Students should check <http://channel8.msdn.com> for regularly posted updates to see when Microsoft DreamSpark will be available to them.

From Classroom Tools & Tips, an EduHound newsletter that includes features from EduHound Weekly -- plus exciting new offerings that provide valuable ed tech resources to incorporate into K-12 curriculum. Educational topics, preformatted templates, technology tutorials, and practical tips are featured.

<https://newsletters.1105pubs.com/nl/THE.do?NL=5483&PC=EWNLF>

Topic: Book Reports Use these resources to guide and inspire students to create wonderful book reports.

- **Book Report Now!** Five fast and easy steps to finding a book and writing a great book report. Includes information on different types of book reports as well as templates for selected books. <http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/bookreportnow/index.htm>
- **abcteach: Book Report Forms** These printable forms guide students through the writing of book reports. http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/writing/book_reports/
- **Better Book Reports-25 Ideas!** Tired of the same old book report formats? Spice up those old book reports

with some new ideas. http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson109.shtml

- **More Ideas Than You'll Ever Use for Book Reports** Features several hundred creative ideas for book reports. <http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/langarts/reading/bookrepts1.html>
- **Book Report Sandwich** Here's a great way to gather all the ingredients you'll need to write a tasty book report. <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/sandwich.asp>
- **Book Report Rubric** Use with any multimedia book review. <http://www.ncsu.edu/midlink/bk.rep.fic.htm>

Tutorial: Web Page Creation Web Building Tutorial Use this Web Building Tutorial to learn how to build a professional looking website and how to use new technologies like XHTML and XML.

<http://www.w3schools.com/web/default.asp>

Template: School Forms - Timesaving Teacher Resources FREE, often-used, printable timesaving sheets for homework, parent contact, field trips, math, lesson planning, and classroom management.

http://www.timesaversforteachers.com/index_page0002.htm

Certify that Habitat Teaching Ecology? The National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program provides a host of ideas on how young students can become active participants in providing habitats for wildlife no matter where they live. All they need to do is provide elements from each of the following areas:

- **Food Sources.** For example: Native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, nectar
- **Water Sources.** For example: Birdbath, pond, water garden, stream
- **Places for Cover.** For example: Thicket, rockpile, birdhouse
- **Places to Raise Young.** For example: Dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting box, pond
- **Sustainable Gardening.** For example: Mulch, compost, rain garden, chemical-free fertilizer

<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/>

From Cable in the Classroom <http://www.ciconline.org/home>

Teaching Media Smarts Much of the time spent communicating, learning, and collaborating today is via media and technology. Do students learn to apply critical thinking skills – analyze and evaluate -to new media and technology tools? In short, do we teach media and information literacy? Learn more in the Media Smart section of the Cable in the Classroom website. <http://www.ciconline.org/media-smart>

This month's issue of *Cable in the Classroom* features articles about *Inspiring Students' Interest in Science and Technology* <http://www.ciconline.org/cicmagazine-March08>

- **Making a Difference** Project-based science lessons, when they have real-life applications, can provide a powerful motivation to learn. Richard Lord, Jr., a biology teacher who created a Time Warner Crystal Apple Award-winning lesson on infectious diseases in 2006, finds that science learning goes down easier -- and is retained longer -- when students are actively involved in a project.
- **Virtual Worlds = Real Learning** Online communities offer terrific opportunities for teaching about science. There have always been scientific concepts our children should experience but that are too dangerous, too expensive, or too time-consuming for school. Virtual worlds change this equation by letting students use million-dollar apparatus, experiment with lethal substances, and compress years of activity into a few weeks.
- **Building More Architects** Danny Forster has a lot to say to the next generation of architects. As the host of Discovery Channel's *Build It Bigger*, architect Danny Forster shares his love of buildings and problem solving by bringing viewers into his world. By breaking down complicated scientific concepts -- such as why the windows in a glass-walled skyscraper don't shatter -- Forster hopes to engage the next generation of architects and engineers.
- **Streaming Science Broadband Tools** Whether hands-on experimentation is impossible or needs some clarification, web resources can be a perfect supplement. Streaming video can show students the science in their everyday lives, take students into space to explore Jupiter's moons, help students see what their peers are doing, or allow them to show their peers what they have accomplished.
- **Popular Science** Tony Knapp wants his students to develop a lifelong love of science. By working with NASA, he's accomplishing his goal. "There are very few kids who don't love space," says Tony Knapp, principal of North Ridge Elementary School in Moreno Valley, Calif., and winner of a 2007 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award. To capitalize on this love, Knapp works with NASA to encourage student involvement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) topics. "We need to push these areas," he says. "We're running out of home-grown engineers."

- **A Win or Loss at Any Cost** Help students think critically about muscle-building, sports-enhancing, weight-loss, and fat-burning products. Use media-literacy skills to deconstruct the ads, investigate the promotional labels, and report the truth.
- **Educational Resource Guides**
Download, print, or forward these subject-specific guides to educational video and online resources.
 - Arts: Bon Jovi, Jay-Z, and more
 - English Language Arts: Sylvia Plath, Jane Austen, and more
 - History: Women's History Month, John F. Kennedy, and more
 - Math: Geometry, video clips, and more
 - Languages: Spanish language on the Web, Spanish-language programming, and more
 - Preschool: Animated series, online activities, and more
 - Science/Health: Green living, alternative fuels, and more
 - Social & Personal Development: Helen Keller, humanitarian projects, and more
 - Social Studies: Women in politics, European cities, and more
- **InterActive** Teachers discuss using online resources to teach complex science concepts in the classroom.
- **Speak Out:** Cyberbullying and other inappropriate behaviors continue to plague children online. How do you teach web etiquette to your students?

The Winter 2008 issue of *Threshold: Exploring the Future of Education* features articles focused on taking advantage of the informal-learning opportunities at your local museums and libraries, produced in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. <http://www.ims.gov/>

- **The Sparks, the Skills, and the Pathways** Eric J. Jolly discusses why informal learning is an essential ingredient for academic success.
- **Outside the Box** Dennie Palmer Wolf looks at how districts and communities can support informal-learning opportunities at home, in the field, and at school.
- **Informal Learning: A Threshold Forum** Marsha L. Semmel, Michael DiMaggio, Alan J. Friedman, Martín J. Gómez, and Beverly K. Sheppard discuss how museums and libraries work best with schools.
- **Building Bridges for Learning** How one community's museums and libraries leverage on-site field trips and distance-learning technology to provide a wide range of informal-learning options to area schools.
- **Surviving in the Information Age** Ruth V. Small explores what it means to be literate in the 21st century and looks at how libraries are leading the way by providing critical educational services to help people become independent consumers of information.
- **New Models, Merging Missions** Pamela Carter-Birken discusses how schools are using technology and innovative programming to bridge and support formal- and informal-learning opportunities with the nation's museums and libraries.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Find PBS Video at iTunes U Some of public broadcastings' most popular stations have begun to offer video clips and other educational resources on iTunes U. See programs from the Washington DC, New York, and Boston public broadcasting stations and download them to your computer. Some programs include clips from the new Ken Burns series *The War about World War II*, and David Grubin's *The Jewish Americans* series. Also download interviews with authors such as R.L. Stine, Lois Lowry, and Katherine Paterson. PBS station KQED in California offers videos from the *Quest* series of science and nature programs and a whole series on *Digital Storytelling*. In addition, find lots of professional development videos on all types of subjects. These are all free. <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>.

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) created a one-stop website with easily searchable information on all members of Congress. One click leads directly to a photograph and biography of all current members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, information that was previously spread among separate databases. The GPO worked closely with the Joint Committee on Printing, clerk of the house, and secretary of the Senate on the site's design and usability. <http://memberguide.gpoaccess.gov>

The National Math Trail is now in its third year, thanks to renewed support from the US Department of Education's Star Schools program, through the Satellite Education Resources Consortium (SERC), and NEC

Foundation. The National Math Trail is an opportunity for K-12 teachers and students to discover and share the math that exists in their own environments. Students explore their communities and create one or more math problems that relate to what they find. Teachers submit the problems to the National Math Trail site, along with photos, drawings, sound recordings, and videos--whatever can be adapted to the Internet. All submissions will be posted to the site as they are submitted. They are also indexed according to grade level and math topic and will remain on the site for access by educators, students and parents.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the excitement of real-world math into the classroom. It can be adapted to any mathematics topic of the K-12 curriculum. The Technology Tutorial presents simple ways to utilize technology in preparing entries--including a template for the creation of web page submissions. There is also an online self-teaching guide on digital communication. <http://www.nationalmathtrail.org/>

From Teacher's First, a rich collection of lessons, units and web resources designed to save teachers time by delivering just what they need in a practical, user-friendly, and ad-free format. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/index.cfm>

- **Cell Biology Animation/Communicating at an Unknown Rate** - Grades 7 - 12 - What happens when a biologist with a passion for art creates a website? This fabulous animation site shows the artistic side of biological processes along with a few surprises. View animations that demonstrate amino acids and proteins, cell anatomy, evolution time line, Krebs cycle, and photosynthesis, to name a few. Some animations are very simplistic but artfully done. Other links include Architectural art, Fibonacci numbers, and Golden ratios. Use this site as an introduction to lessons or as a review on an interactive whiteboard or projector. Visual/spatial students and budding artists will be especially intrigued by such an approach. Create classroom models of DNA using the 3D stereoscopic models on the site. Follow the animation to write the steps of complex cellular activities. Use the zoom to see close up views of the structures. The site is written in 6 languages. A link for sale of CD of the animations is also on the page. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=9046>
- **Geometry – 3D Shapes**- Grades 5 - 9 - Get your interactive whiteboards (or projectors) ready for this intriguing website. The website introduction page activates students' schema by explaining how we live in a three-dimensional world. Have students add to the website's list of 3D shapes in their classroom. Complete the web activities as a class (on a projection screen), or have students team up and research the website in pairs. At the conclusion of the activity, students divide into two teams to complete the interactive quiz. Project the questions on the screen, and teams discuss the math problem and determine the best answers. This website offers motivational and interactive class activities to learn more about 3D shapes. It also shows how to calculate surface area and volume, as well as other mathematical properties about the 3D shapes. Specific topics include surface area and volume, platonic solids, Euler's Theorem, and several others. The Test Your Skills link provides an interactive quiz complete with photos, illustrations, and animations. The About This Interactive link provides standards, goals, lesson ideas, and more. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8997>
- **PBS Arthur** - Grades 0 - 3 - If Arthur and his friends sit on your class bookshelf, bookmark this interactive and safe PBS website. The site offers numerous activities, polls, information about favorite Arthur characters, and many other educational activities. Some examples include, "Elmwood City Map," "Facts and Opinions," "Supermarket Adventure," and numerous others. This site requires Flash. Click the 'Parents and Teachers' link at the bottom left column of the homepage to find lesson plans, activities, book lists, and more. Nearly all of these activities are ideal for an interactive whiteboard or projector. When reading Arthur books in the classroom, extend the learning through these activities. From healthy eating tips to Arthur Trivia, the possibilities at this website are endless. The games are conducive to individual or cooperative learning. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8950>
- **Interactives: Historical and Cultural Contexts** - Grades 6 - 12 - This website teaches students to recognize different kinds of primary documents, interpret them by using context clues, and apply what is learned to better understand the past. Professional historians rely heavily on primary documents in their research. The World Wide Web has opened up a wealth of primary documents for use by a broader audience, and students can gain valuable insight into the past by understanding and analyzing them. Advanced classes, particularly AP-level, emphasize the importance of primary documents. This site, written at a level accessible to younger students, allows teachers to begin using primary documents much sooner. The site would work well on an interactive whiteboard (or projector) as a classroom activity. With the teacher leading and clarifying, the class might walk through several simple document analyses to gain an understanding of primary documents and

their uses. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=9031>

- **English Renaissance Drama** - Grades 9 - 12 - Students know something about Shakespeare, but may tend to think he was the only playwright of his day. This site identifies Shakespeare as one of many playwrights in the Elizabethan period and discusses the Tudor period before and a Jacobean period after him. This is an exhaustive, albeit entertaining, and authoritative look at English drama as it moved from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance. The articles are written by professors and contain links with explanations for all the referenced allusions. While rather encyclopedic in nature, having all the resources in one place is extraordinarily handy for the teacher of this period. Don't miss the Introduction section to get valuable information about the theaters and the staging conventions of the time. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8874>
- **Measurement – Johnnie's Math Page** - Grades 1 - 6 - This collection of nearly twenty interactive measurement activities was organized by a math specialist. Specific topics include telling time and clock math, balances, standard measurement, metric system, liquid measurement, proportions, coins, and others. Many of the activities can be individualized by choosing specific topics, difficulty levels, and various other options, and work well on an interactive whiteboard. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8980>
- **Sci-Quest Hands on Science Center** - Grades 4 - 10 - This "adventurous" website has two distinct sections. The first section challenges students to build their own roller coasters. Students choose various track sections, the starting speed, and the amount of friction. They then test their roller coasters. To move the track sections, simply click and drag the track section to place it on the roller coaster. "Roller Coaster Science," the meat of the site, highlights four main science questions: What is potential energy, and how is it used by a roller coaster? What is kinetic energy, and how is it used by a roller coaster? What is friction and how does it affect a roller coaster? What is the difference between a steel roller coaster and a wooden roller coaster? Use an interactive whiteboard or projector to create a whole-class roller coaster. Use the "Roller Coaster Science" page to learn about the 4 core scientific concepts. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8918>
- **NPR Election 2008** - Grades 6 - 12 - Sifting through the volume of information on the 2008 Presidential elections could be a full-time job! For a handful of sites that gives current, unbiased (as much as any political information can be!) data about the election, consider using this NPR site. It starts with a flash-enabled US map that is currently reflecting the status of primaries and caucuses, and includes a side-by-side comparison of candidates' views on central issues like Iraq, the economy, health care, and climate change. There is a helpful primary calendar to track the process. Finally, there is updated news and commentary about the campaign season. <http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=9048>

NEWEST eTHEMES

Animals Around the World These websites are about animals around the world. Learn about what kinds of animals found in different regions of the world and how habitat and environment affect animals' lives. There is also information on types of animals, food they eat, habitats, characteristics, and more. Includes photos, video clips, animal sounds, and interactive games. There are also links to eThemes Resources on various animal themes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002247.shtml>

Animals: Grasshoppers These sites are about grasshoppers. Here you will find information about these insects and their environment, how to observe them, or how to take care of them in captivity. There are audio files, quizzes, pictures, and more. Included is an eThemes Resource on insects. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002207.shtml>

Aviation: Army Helicopters These sites provide general information about army helicopters and the Black Hawk helicopters. Learn the history, facts, and mission of Black Hawks. Includes lesson plans, online activities, and photos related to the flying principle and helicopters. There is a link to eThemes Resource on Aviation: Military Aircraft. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002214.shtml>

Children of War These sites focus on the effects of war on children. Learn about the places where war has affected children and how they have been affected. Includes links to videos and audio recordings of children directly affected by

war. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002173.shtml>

Country: Bosnia-Herzegovina These sites are about Bosnia-Herzegovina. Learn about the people, history, culture, and government of this eastern European nation. There are facts, maps, photos, videos, and more.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002201.shtml>

Goal Setting These websites are about setting goals. There is information on setting personal, academic, and financial goals. Learn the difference between short and long term goals, and how to set SMART goals for the best chance of success. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002183.shtml>

Going Green These sites provide resources and information on helping a school "go green." There is information on strategies to teach kids about going green and to help create a green school environment. There are also guidelines for schools to get started with the green school program and examples of best practices from other schools. Includes animations and interactive websites, lesson plans, and teaching resources. There are links to eThemes Resources on Recycling, Energy: Renewable and Non-Renewable, and Earth Day.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002208.shtml>

Literature: Postmodern American Short Story These sites provide information about postmodernism and its influences in literature including short stories. Learn about the postmodern view and its attributes. There is also information on postmodern American short story. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002134.shtml>

Presidential Election 2008 These sites are about the 2008 Presidential election. Includes sites on the presidential candidates and sites that provide updated information the 2008 race. There are lesson plans about the election process. Also includes eThemes Resources on elections for elementary and secondary students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002212.shtml>

Restaurant Franchise Ownership Learn about franchise ownership in the in restaurant industry. The topics cover costs and benefits of owning a franchise, process of opening a franchise restaurant, criteria for evaluating the franchise opportunities, and franchise terminology. Includes franchise database and list of the restaurant chains that students can explore. There are links to eThemes Resources on budgets and basic concepts of economics.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002209.shtml>

Sports in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era These websites are about sports during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era in North America, with particular emphasis on boxer Jack Johnson. Learn about the beginning of professional sports in America and the historical context in which they developed. Issues relating to race, class, and gender are addressed. There are primary source documents, photographs, interactive features, and more.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002202.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Butterflies and Monarch Migration These sites provide information on the life cycle, habitats, and behaviors of butterflies. View images and see the distribution of various butterfly species. Learn about wildlife migration and why it occurs. Several sites focus on monarch butterflies and their annual migration. An eMINTS Web Quest on monarch butterflies and their life cycle is linked. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000113.shtml>

Holiday: Birthdays These sites about birthdays include descriptions of celebrations in different countries, the legends associated with birthstones, and information about the famous birthday song. There are crafts, recipes, printable certificates, e-cards, and more. Also includes lesson plans with birthday themes and a probability problem of determining the odds that classmates will share the same birthdays. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on This Day in History that students can use to research what events took place on their birthdates.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001279.shtml>