

## Stanislaus County Office of Education October 2009 Math and Science Newsletter

### Math workshops after school

The Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting an after school math content workshop on Wednesday, October 14 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. The cost of the *workshop is only \$ 10 dollars*, and there will be two distinct sessions. The first session is for teachers in grades 2-4, and the second session is for teachers in grades 5-7. These workshops will run simultaneously and you will walk away with ideas for teaching difficult math content to your students.

### Math competitions in Stanislaus County

The Stanislaus Math Council would like you to mark your calendar for their spring math student competitions.

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math Blast Saturday, March 6, 2010
- Junior High Math Superbowl Saturday, May 1, 2010
- High School Math Competition Saturday, April 24, 2010

Would you like more information before deciding to register a team of students? Then you are invited to attend a **FREE informational meeting on Wednesday, October 7 from 4-5 p.m. or 5-6 p.m. at the Stanislaus County Office of Education**. You will meet members of the Math Council who coordinate these events and they will provide you an overview of the competitions, answer questions, and help you to register your student teams for the spring of 2010 competitions.

### Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 MAPS

is proud to introduce Dr. Kirsten Sanford, and her presentation titled **“This Is Your Life on Science”- a Generational Exploration of the Many Ways Science Affects Everyone Everyday**. Dr Kiki has appeared on CBS’s The Doctors, and her presentation will talk about the ways that science has been changing the ways we interact with our environment and how things that used to seem like science fiction are now common place. Where are we now and where will we be in 50 years? How is science going to affect our lives as we age? This is part of the **free lecture series** sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. **You will want to bring your own children with you to this presentation: Dr. Kiki has designed her presentation to include video, slide shows, and demonstrations**. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the MJC Auditorium on the Modesto Junior College East campus and includes FREE parking and admission. For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

### California Science Education Conference

The California Science Education Conference, sponsored by CSTA, will be held October 22-25 in Palm Springs. The conference boasts over 200 science-related workshops, short courses, focus speakers, and field courses, and an exhibit hall with over 100 educational exhibits. Two Professional Development strands offer teachers the opportunity to earn university credit. Special guest speaker, Ira Flatow, host of NPR's Science Friday, will kick-off the event at the general session. CSTA has extended the early-bird registration rate of \$98 for CSTA members until October 9. Registration and more information can be found at [http://www.cascience.org/csta/conf\\_home09.asp](http://www.cascience.org/csta/conf_home09.asp).

### Scholarships for New Teachers

CSTA is pleased to announce that, through the generosity of a grant provided by Northrop Grumman, they are offering 7 new teachers a scholarship to attend the 2009 California Science Education Conference. **Applicant Criteria:**

- \* Science teacher in a diverse student population elementary or middle school.
- \* Science teacher in **their first five years of teaching.**
- \* Teacher has received approval to be absent from the classroom on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 2009 for purposes of attending the California Science Education Conference. Scholarship will cover the following expenses:
- \* Full conference registration for the 2009 California Science Education Conference.
- \* Three night's hotel accommodation at the Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel (room and tax only).
- \* For elementary teachers, the Mini-University in Physical Science (optional).
- \* One year membership in CSTA (if recipient is not currently a member).
- \* Up to \$100 in travel expenses, limited to mileage, airfare, bus, rail, tolls, parking, and airport shuttle. (A reimbursement form will be provided; receipts must be submitted for reimbursement.)

*Recipient of Scholarship will be responsible for any and all other expenses including meals and incidentals. There is no compensation for substitute teachers or time off of work.* Applications can be found at

[http://www.cascience.org/csta/conf\\_registrationScholarship.asp](http://www.cascience.org/csta/conf_registrationScholarship.asp) .

**Application Deadline: October 9, 2009**

**Disney Launches "Disney's Planet Challenge":** Program Tailored to Educational Guidelines of Each State. Grand Prize Winning Class Will Enjoy Disneyland® Celebration. Open to all students in grades 4-6.

With the school year in full swing, educators will have a new environmental science learning tool to draw from as they develop their curriculums. Disney today announced the nationwide launch of **Disney's Planet Challenge, a project-based environmental competition for 4th – 6th grade classrooms that will empower students to make a difference in school, at home and in their local communities.** With more than 15 years experience running highly-acclaimed classroom environmental competitions in regional markets including California and Florida (as “Disney’s Environmentality Challenge®”), Disney developed the new Disney’s Planet Challenge in response to growing demand across all 50 states. Program collaborations with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the K-12 Alliance and state and federal government agencies ensure academic and environmental excellence. Participation in the program is **FREE**, and enrollment is open today at [www.disney.com/planetchallenge](http://www.disney.com/planetchallenge) .

**Science: It's a Girl Thing!** Science: It's a Girl Thing! is using the power of social media to connect with parents and educators about how to foster girls' interest in science and technology, and why that is important. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the program offers web-based and easy-to-use resources for conducting science activities at home. It builds on everyday science that parents already know. Just as children are natural scientists, parents are natural teachers. **Science: It's a Girl Thing!** includes a series of short, entertaining and educational videos and *free downloadable PDF activity cards* for parents to use in working with their daughters. To access the free activity cards, visit **It's a Girl Thing** at <http://www.edequity.org/sigt/>