

Stanislaus County Office of Education December 2007 Math and Science Newsletter

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)

Mark your calendar for **Friday, December 14th** for an evening with MJC professor Dr. Bill Luebke, for an evening entitled “*The Christmas Star*”. This is part of the **free** lecture series sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the planetarium on the Modesto Junior College East campus. **This is an excellent event for the entire family to attend.** For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

Marcy Cook presents Algebraic Thinking

Marcy Cook has been a part of mathematics professional development for the past 30 years, and has authored over 120 math centers and 75 books on problem solving. She is known world wide for showing educators how to make algebra connections fun and exciting to teach. She is coming to Modesto and SCOE for two days in **January: Tuesday, January 15th for teachers in grades K-2; Wednesday, January 16th for teachers in grades 3-6.** The cost is only \$ 125 dollars and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. You can register now for her workshop at

<http://www.stan-co.k12.ca.us/SCOE/workshops/welcome.html>

These workshops will fill

up fast, so register early to reserve your spot.

Marcy will focus her presentation on building conceptual understanding with students using concrete objects so as they encounter the more abstract properties of algebra they can use their understanding to bridge to the new information. *As more and more schools look to prepare all students to take Algebra in grade 8, this workshop will help to meet the need for strategies and content to address the algebra achievement gap.*

For additional information, please contact our SCOE office at 209 – 238 – 1315. Our administrative assistant, Anna Marie Facha, can answer your registration and workshop questions.

CASEL

You are invited to attend the CASEL (**Capitol Area Science Education Leaders**) annual science conference on **Wednesday, January 23rd, 2008 from 8:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. This conference is for all teachers in grades K-12,** as well as administrators, curriculum directors, and county coordinators. The keynote speaker for CASEL will be Kate Kinsella, a teacher educator at San Francisco State University. Her presentation will focus on the instructional practices that provide second language learners and less proficient readers in grades 4-12 with the language and literacy skills to address their grade level standards. In addition to the keynote speaker, there will be numerous breakout sessions including such topics as: *the science/literacy connection; balancing schedules for effective science instruction; engaging science labs in the secondary classrooms; creative CST review; implementing an effective after school science program; panel discussions;* and much more. To register online, go to

www.edserve.sjcoe.net/casel/

for additional information; please contact Deawn Weiher

at the San Joaquin County Office of Education at **1-209-468-9170**

Saturday Math Courses at CSUS

California State University at Stanislaus (CSUS) is offering a series of Saturday math courses for teachers. **The sessions are from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and include lunch.** Cost of the sessions is only \$ 30 dollars / session or \$ 300 for the entire series. Professional development units are also available at \$ 65 dollars per unit.. For more information or to sign up, visit their web site at

<http://csmc.ucop.edu/cmp/region6/calendar/index.php>

Or contact Rita Glynn in the math grants department at CSUS (667 – 3780).

- Saturday, February 9th 2008 **Strategies to teach, review and re-teach number sense and algebraic thinking Part 2** for teachers in grades K-12

Mathematics Instructional Materials Faire

The Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a *mathematics instructional faire* to showcase the newly adopted math textbooks and related instructional materials. Publishers will be on hand to answer questions and to provide an overview of their textbooks to interested teachers. Here are the two dates for the math textbooks:

- **Wednesday, January 30th 2008 from 8:30 – 3:30 p.m. for the elementary math adopted materials.**
- **Tuesday, February 5th, 2008 from 8:30 – 3:30 p.m. for the middle school math adopted materials.**

Both events will be held at **the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Harvest Hall, located at the corner of Crows Landing and Service Roads**. Each publisher will have a display table and available all day to answer questions about their instructional materials. To register for the event, please contact your school district curriculum director. Teams of teachers are encouraged to attend to represent the school and district. There will be no registration cost to attend.

Space Camp 2008 for Educators

Each summer, more than 200 teachers attend the Honeywell Educators Space Academy program at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Since 2004, 685 teachers from 35 countries and 48 states have graduated from the program which provides 50 hours of intensive classroom, laboratory, and training time with a focus on space science and space exploration. Teachers participate in astronaut –style simulations, along with activities designed to promote life long learning in a classroom setting. All lessons and activities are correlated to National Science and Math Standards. **Here is the exciting part – you can apply for a full scholarship to the Space Camp which includes the tuition, airfare, meals, lodging, and all workbooks and materials.** Deadline to apply for this scholarship is December 31, 2007. Complete details are available at www.honeywell.com/hhs

Last year a local 5th grade teacher from Ceres was a participant and all expenses were included in the scholarship, even a flight suit! He highly recommends this summer experience to all classroom teachers. This summer program is open to **teachers** of students' ages 10 – 14 years old. I encourage you to apply for this once in a lifetime experience. Space Camp will take place June 17-23 and June 24-30, 2008.

Project Uplift

is looking for math tutors to work with youth on Saturdays as a part of Project Uplift, a community based program designed to reach out to young African American men ages 8-14. If you would like more information or are interested in being a part of a volunteer group, please contact John Ervin with Modesto City Schools. His email is Ervin.j@monet.k12.ca.us

School Garden Course for K-12 teachers

Modesto Junior College Agriculture Department is offering a 3 semester spring course for local K-12 educators. A school garden offers a dynamic setting in which to integrate every discipline, including science, math, environmental studies, nutrition, and health. This class is appropriate for after school teachers, classroom teachers, and for non-formal educators who already have a school garden. For more information, contact Don Borges at MJC. 1-209-575-6200 or email him at borgesd@yosemite.cc.ca.us or go directly to <http://wwwstatic.kern.org/gems/region6b/MJCSpring08GardenClass.pdf>

Green California Schools Summit

Mark your calendar for December 4-6, 2007 for the Green California Schools conference in Pasadena, California. This groundbreaking event will focus on the strategies, technologies, and services that will ensure that new and existing schools are models of sustainability and healthy learning environments for students. For more information or to register go to <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/attendee.htm>