

Stanislaus County Office of Education November 2007 Math and Science Newsletter

Science Fair workshops

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a series of **FREE after school workshops for teachers in grades K-8** who are interested in entering student science fair projects to the county science fair. **Our theme for the science fair is “Inspire Curiosity”**. Our science consultant, Tricia Dunlap, will have information, handouts, and a brief demonstration of the scientific method. You are invited to attend and hear about the county science fair and how you and your class can participate. Here are the dates, times, and locations of these informational workshops:

- **Wednesday, November 7th, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Walnut Education Center in Turlock School District.**
- **Tuesday, November 27th from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Lakewood Elementary School in Modesto**
- **Wednesday, December 5th from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Mary Ann Sanders Elementary School in Sylvan District.**

STARLAB

Would you like to bring the night sky into your classroom? Would you like to engage your students in learning about the solar system? Looking for an easy, low cost way to take them to a planetarium? The answer might be in bringing STARLAB to your classroom and school. If you are a teacher in grade 3, 5, or 8 and want to learn about STARLAB and about your earth science standards in action, then plan on attending this Saturday morning workshop. The presenter, Mike Oakes, is a 5th grade teacher who will take you inside the STARLAB and also train you on how to use the GEMS kit called “*Earth, Moon, and Stars*”. You will walk away with ideas to address your grade level science standards in a fun and exciting way. The workshop is **Saturday, November 17th from 9:00 – 12:00 noon at Salida Elementary school** located at 4519 Finney Road off Broadway Ave in Salida. **Cost is only \$ 30 dollars and includes a continental breakfast, handouts, and a copy of the Teacher Guide.** Register online for the workshop at

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

This workshop is limited to the first 25 teachers to sign up. Once you have attended the workshop, you can check out and use the STARLAB unit for FREE from the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 2nd for an evening with MJC Professors and local Modesto citizens, for a forum on the subject “**Global Climate Change: What is Our Response?**” This is part of the free lecture series sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. and continues until 9:40 p.m. and will be held in Forum 110 on the Modesto Junior College East campus. For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

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. You may also combine your attendance at the Saturday math series with attendance at math workshops sponsored and hosted by SCOE in order to total up your 15 hours. For more information or to sign up, visit their web site at <http://csmp.ucop.edu/cmp/region6/calendar/index.php> Or contact Rita Glynn in the math grants department at CSUS (667 – 3780).

- Saturday, November 3 **What’s Your Weight? Or Keeping Secrets in Public**
for teachers in grades 6 - 12
- Saturday, November 10 **Strategies to teach, review and re-teach number sense and algebraic thinking Part 1**
for teachers in grades K-12

The Starry Messenger presented at Johansen High School on **November 30th at 5:30 and at 7:30 p.m.** is the story of the father of modern science, Galileo. **Admission is FREE** to all and is sponsored by MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science) and the Stanislaus County Office of Education. *This event is recommended for students age 10 and above.* The play uses humor and drama to present equal measures of Galileo's scientific discoveries, the conflicts between science and religion, and the relationship between a difficult but loving father and his devoted but strong willed daughter.

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 males 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

Disney's Environmental Challenge for **students in grades 3, 4 and 5** is a fun and interactive way to do something good for the environment and allow students a chance to use their creativity. The **deadline to enter this program is December 14, 2007** and if you are interested you can visit their web site at <http://disney.go.com/environmentality/dec/california.html> Grade 5 students can also enter the class project competition to delve deeper into environmental issues. For teachers there is a link with sample lesson plans that integrate the California State Content Standards with an environmental topic. You can also download the Disney Environmental Challenge handbook and other resources, all for free.

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 questions.

Instructional School Garden Network MJC and Stanislaus County Office of Education are partnering to present an evening network meeting to support schools who received school garden grants, or who are interested in sustaining or creating an instructional school garden. The evening meeting is free to all interested teachers. It will be held on **Wednesday, November 28th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the Modesto Junior College Agriculture Department, Room 126, located at the corner of Coldwell and College Ave. For more information you can contact either Tricia Dunlap here at SCOE (tdunlap@stancoe.org) or Don Borges, Director of the Central Valley Consortium of Agriculture Education at borgesd@yosemite.cc.ca.us