

Stanislaus County Office of Education October 2007 Math and Science Newsletter

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.

GOT MATH? The Stanislaus Math Council and the Stanislaus County Office of Education are hosting the 37th Annual Mathematics Conference on **Saturday, October 27th, 2007 from 8:00 – 3:00 p.m.** The featured speaker will be **Greg Tang**, author of numerous books, including *The Grapes of Math* and *Math for All Seasons*. In addition to the keynote speaker, there will be many breakout sessions for all grade levels K-12, free prize drawings including \$ 50 dollar gift certificates to Nasco, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Save the date on your calendar as registration will be limited to 300 people. The event will be held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education. **The cost will be only \$ 75 dollars.** <http://www.stancoe.org> Information and registration forms are on our SCOE web site. Click on *Workshops*, and then click on *Math workshops*. Participants are eligible to earn a unit of professional development credit from CSUS for only \$ 65 dollars. The 6 hours of attendance at GOT MATH can be combined with attendance at any other SCOE math workshop or CSUS Saturday series workshop, and when the total hours of attendance reaches 15 hours, participants can apply for the unit of credit. Teachers have until June of 2008 to attend workshops and earn the 15 hours for the professional development.

FREE K-12 Energy Education Workshop The Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a Solar Schools workshop, in partnership with the PGE Solar Schools program, on **Saturday, November 10th, 2007, from 8:30 – 2:30 p.m. at our downtown SCOE Petersen Event Center.** *This workshop is FREE for all classroom teachers in grades K-12.* Our presenter is Barry Scott, the program coordinator for NEED (National Energy Education Development). Teachers who attend this Saturday workshop will receive the following: **\$ 100 dollar stipend from PGE** for attending; \$ 400 “Science of Energy” hands-on kit; a grade level solar energy hands-on kit worth \$ 350; information on Bright Ideas grants and Solar Installation grants; and a continental breakfast and lunch are included. Registration is available online at: <http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/ssc.htm>
You may also contact our SCOE office administrative assistant, Anna Marie Facha, for additional information at afacha@stancoe.org

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science) Mark your calendar for Friday, October 19th for an evening with Judith Lowrey, author of “*Gardening with a Wild Heart*” who will speak on the topic “**California Native Plants**”. 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 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 \$ 25 dollars / session or \$ 250 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, October 13 **Problem Solving in Geometry** for teachers in grades 6 – 12
- 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

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 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, October 17th from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Sam Vaughn Elementary School in Ceres.

Wednesday, November 7th from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary Education Center in Turlock.

Teachers from throughout the county can attend any session and location that best meets their calendar and need. It is not necessary to register for any of these sessions in advance, you can stop in and we will have materials for you. More after school workshop dates will be scheduled and printed in our November newsletter.

Tackling the Two Toughies: Geometry and Measurement

The Stanislaus County Office Of Education is hosting a workshop for classroom teachers interested in ways to improve student achievement within the geometry/measurement strand. We have hired **Barbara Novelli, math consultant** with Creative Mathematics, and colleague of Kim Sutton, to teach this workshop. Participating teachers will learn strategies to engage students in problem solving and application. Teachers will walk away confident and competent in ways to provide interactive student experiences in this important math strand. Two workshops will be offered:

- **Tuesday, October 16th from 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. for teachers in grades K-2.**
- **Wednesday, October 17th from 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. for teachers in grades 3-5.**

The cost of the workshop is only \$ 100 dollars, and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and activity bag provided by Creative Mathematics. The workshops will be held at Samaritan Village, 7700 Fox Road in Hughson. For online registration please go to:

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

For registration questions, please contact our administrative assistant, Anna Marie Facha, here at SCOE. Her number is 209 – 238 – 1315 or email at afacha@stancoe.org

Teachers can earn up to one unit of professional development credit from CSUS for attendance at the workshop. You can apply your 6 hours of attendance with any other SCOE math workshop, or CSUS Saturday session workshop, for a total of 15 hours. One unit of credit will cost only \$ 65 dollars. Additional information available at the Barbara Novelli workshop.