

Stanislaus County Office of Education January 2008 Math and Science Newsletter

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 school 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**

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science) Mark your calendar for Friday, January 25th, 2008 for an evening with primatologist Joanne Tanner for a presentation on the subject “**Asking Big Questions: Gorillas and the Evolution of Language**”. Dr. Tanner will discuss the natural gestural communication of gorillas untaught by humans and show video footage to illustrate how her ape research helps us to understand more about the evolution of human language. This presentation 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 \$ 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://csm.p.ucop.edu/cmp/region6/calendar/index.php> Or contact Rita Glynn in the math grants department at CSUS (667 – 3780).

- Saturday, February 9th 2008 **Algebraic Thinking Using Recreational Math**
for teachers in grades K-12 with instructor Sam Dolber
- Saturday, February 16th 2008 **“Repeat as Required” – Visualizing Chaos Using Graphing Calculators** for teachers in grades 6-12 with instructor Bix Beeman

Algebraic Thinking conference Sponsored by the California Math Council (CMC), this annual conference is one of the finest in the country. It is located in the town of Seaside, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, adjacent to beautiful Monterey bay. **The conference is scheduled for March 7 – 8, 2008** and is unique in that it is a Workshop style conference. Friday evening will feature keynote speaker Greg Tang. On Saturday, participants will attend grade span workshops. The grade spans will be K-1, grades 2-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 8-12. Teachers in the grade spans will attend common workshops in the morning and afternoon with colleagues, so there is plenty of sharing of best practices. The **theme is algebraic thinking** and

the registration cost is only \$ 140 dollars for the weekend. For additional information or to download an application, go to the CMC web site www.cmc-math.org You won't need a substitute to attend, since this is scheduled for the weekend.

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 – 4:00 p.m. for the elementary math adopted core textbook materials.**
- **Tuesday, February 5th, 2008 from 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. for the middle school math core textbook 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.**

Stanislaus County Elementary Science Fair

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a **county elementary science fair for grades K-8 the week of May 12 -16, 2008**. The science fair will be held at the Salida Regional Library, located off Highway 99 in Salida. The theme of the science fair is "*Inspire Curiosity*" and teachers are encouraged to interest their students in inquiry based science instruction. Any teacher who has a student project submitted to the SCOE science fair will have their name entered into a drawing for gift certificates to spend at NASCO for classroom supplies for science education. ***Start planning your school science fair for the spring right now, and save the best student projects to enter into our county science fair.*** All student projects will earn a ribbon, and the top student projects will earn a gold medal for science achievement. For additional information about the science fair, contact Rick Bartkowski, Director of Math and Science, at rbartkowski@stancoe.org or contact Tricia Dunlap, our science consultant, at tdunlap@stancoe.org

If you would like to look at the science fair guidelines, read a Q&A document about the science fair, or view a slide show of last year's fair, please visit our SCOE web site at www.stancoe.org Click on the link at the top of the page called "*programs*" then click on the link called "*science fair*". You should be able to find information and a quick photo slide show of our 2007 science fair projects. You can also Google search the web site called "**science buddies**" and search the list of science fair projects as well as the teacher resources links. This is a fabulous web site for selecting science fair topics, or send your students here in search of what inspires their curiosity!

School Garden Course at MJC

January 7th, 2008 is the last day to register for the spring class offered through the MJC Agriculture Department. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings and the instructor is Don Borges. For more information, please contact Don at 575-6200 or go the web site at <http://www.gomjc.org/>