

Stanislaus County Office of Education March 2008 Math and Science Newsletter

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

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

- Saturday, March 22nd 2008 **“Hands On Geometry” Using GeoBoard and Paper Folding**
for teachers in grades 4-8 with instructor Dr. Viji Sundar
- Saturday, April 12th 2008 **“Reviewing Tips for Upcoming Tests”**
for teachers in grades 5-9 with instructor Amy Chavkin
- Saturday, April 12th 2008 **“Literature and Mathematics Part 1”**
for teachers in grades 1-3 with instructor Judy Lewis

Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)

The 2008 Forestry Institute for Teachers is scheduled the week of June 22-28, 2008 at Camp Chinquapin, in Tuolumne County near Pinecrest Lake. Spend a week in the beautiful Central Sierra Mountains and learn about forest ecology and forest management. Participants will be trained in Project Wild and Project Learning Tree. The registration fee is only **\$ 20 dollars and participants will receive a \$ 200 stipend** after completion of the week training. For registration and more information go to

www.forestryinstitute.org

The deadline to apply is March 14, 2008 and this program usually fills up very fast.

Math Intervention Materials

Would you like a chance to look at all of the new state board approved math intervention textbooks and materials? Do you wonder what is available for struggling math students in grades 4-7? Do you have 8th grade students who are not ready for a full course in Algebra, but do not want to repeat instruction using the 7th grade textbook? If you would like some answers to these and other questions regarding math instruction and intervention, I would encourage you to attend the county math intervention exhibit on **Tuesday, March 11th, 2008.** The exhibit hall will be open from **8:30 – 5:00 p.m.** and there will be over 15 publishers displaying up to 19 different sets of state board approved math intervention materials. The math textbook intervention faire will be held in the Martin Petersen Event Center, located at 720 12th street in downtown Modesto, just across the street from our Stanislaus County Office of Education. There is **NO cost to attend**, and you are invited to drop in right after school if you are unable to acquire a substitute teacher for your classroom. **I also highly encourage after school coordinators as well as summer school administrators to attend and look more closely at the various math materials that are available to help schools close the math achievement gap with their students.** There will be 11 different sets of Algebra Readiness materials on display, and 8 different sets of materials for math intervention in grades 4-7. For more information, please contact Rick Bartkowski, Director of Math and Science for Stanislaus County Office of Education at rbartkowski@stancoe.org

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science) Mark your calendar for Friday, March 28th, 2008 for an evening with Carter Emmart. Carl is the Director of AstroVisualization at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The topic for the evening is **“Plotting the Universe from Earth Today to Yesterday and Far Away”**. Carl will demonstrate how advanced data visualization has paved the way for a new kind of digital 3D map of the universe. 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/>

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. 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

River of Words (ROW) River of Words is a nature based science, art, and poetry program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy, and the arts. This workshop will be held on **Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.** here at the Stanislaus County Office of Education. **Participants must register by April 25th and the cost is only \$ 25 dollars.** The registration fee covers lunch, materials, and instruction. This workshop is designed for **educators in grades K-12** and will provide ideas and inspiration for integrating natural exploration and the arts into core subject areas like science, math, social studies, and language arts. It is also a great workshop for after school coordinators looking for enrichment activities for their students. To register, go to the calendar page at www.creec.org/region6

or you can register by cutting and pasting this link directly into your web browser: <http://stanislaus.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=447&id=13892>

School Garden Workshop **Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008, from 3:45 – 8:00** p.m. at the Modesto Junior College campus. During this workshop, participants will learn about the School Garden Network, how to find grants, organic gardening, composting, and crafts in the garden. The **\$ 25 dollar** registration fee covers educational materials, raffle prizes, dinner and refreshments. If you are interested in attending, contact Don Borges at 209-575-6449 at the MJC Agriculture Department. **Registration deadline is April 18, 2008.** This is also an excellent workshop for after school coordinators.