

Stanislaus County Office of Education February 2009 Math and Science Newsletter

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 the weekend of March 12-13, 2009** and is unique in that it is a workshop style conference. Friday evening will feature David Foster as keynote speaker. 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.*

Dinner with a Scientist

The Stanislaus County Office Of Education invites area teachers to bring 3 students from **grades 7-10 to the March 9, 2009 Dinner with a Scientist**, held on the campus of California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock. The Monday evening begins at 4:30 with the keynote speaker beginning at 5:00 p.m. You and your students will be seated at tables with 2 area scientists with an opportunity to ask questions and hear about their careers. Dinner will be served and after dinner, you and your students will switch tables and sit with 2 other scientists and enjoy dessert and the closing speaker. The evening ends at approximately 7:15 p.m. You are responsible for the transportation of students to and from the event. **The total cost of the evening for the teacher and 3 students is only \$ 25 dollars.** This is a special price (for Stanislaus county teachers only) reflecting a generous donation to offset the costs of the dinner. For more information about this event, contact Rick Bartkowski, Director of Math and Science, at rbartkowski@stancoe.org

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 27, 2009 for an evening with archeologist Ellen Bell, who will share her recent archeological work in Mesoamerica. This region offers many exciting new ideas with discoveries at Copan of hidden temples, hieroglyphic stairways, and the skeleton of the founder of Copan. 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 Series from CSUS

The California Math Project at CSU Stanislaus is proud to announce a series of low cost Saturday math workshops designed for the busy classroom teacher. **Each workshop is only \$ 30 dollars, the session is held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** and participants will earn 5 hours of credit toward the purchase of professional development credit from CSUS. One unit of credit is available for only \$ 65 dollars after earning a minimum of 15 hours of credit. All Saturday workshops will be held at the CSUS campus in Turlock. You may register online or on the day of the event. For online registration, go to <http://csmmp.ucop.edu/cmp/ccmp/calendar.php>

Here are some of the upcoming dates and Saturdays:

- February 21, 2009 **Teaching Fractions Using Computer Graphics, Part I** for teachers in grades 4-8 with instructor Stephanie Souza.

Stanislaus County Science Fair

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a **county science fair for grades K-8 the week of May 11-15, 2009**. The science fair will be held at the Martin Petersen Event Center, located across the street from our downtown SCOE office. 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

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.

Local Counselor Resource

If you are looking for a resource of ideas for working with groups of students, an area psychologist, Dr. Nick Minardi, has written a book that might offer tangible ideas you can use. The book is called *“Fifty Steps Closer: Group Counseling Reflections in School Aged Boys and Girls”* and you can find it at the web site www.fiftystepsclouser.com Your school psychologist or counselor may find many of these activities both useful and practical in working with school and social issues.

A+ for Energy Grants

What could you do with \$ 5000 or \$ 10,000 dollars for your classroom? BP’s California A+ for Energy Program is seeking to distribute 1.5 million dollars to California classrooms for innovative ways to implement energy education in the classroom. The **application deadline is March 9, 2009**. Winning grants will be announced by May 21st, 2009. You can view a list of the 2008 winning classrooms and projects at <http://www.aplusforenergy.com>

The application process is open to any K-12 classroom teacher. The grant may be used for equipment, supplies, travel, stipends, software, and / or services. The grant proposal is limited to only 5 pages, so this is not a lengthy process. I encourage you to review some of the 2006 winning California proposals for ideas and suggestions for your own school or classroom.

Family Math Night

Have you ever wondered how to host a Family Math Night? Thought about what goes into making this work for your parents and students? The Stanislaus Math Council invites you to attend an ***after school information meeting*** and teachers will explain exactly how to host a Family Math Night, give you tips and ideas on math stations to try, and supply lots of advice on the ingredients for a successful Family Math Night. You are invited to attend on **Tuesday, February 24 from 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. in the Elmdale Room** at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, located at 1100 H Street in downtown Modesto. The Elmdale room is located on the lower level of the building. This event is FREE for members of the Stanislaus Math Council, and only \$ 10 dollars for a non- member. You can pay at the door, and make checks payable to Stanislaus Math Council.