

## Stanislaus County Office of Education March 2009 Math and Science Newsletter

### PGE Solar Schools Program EXPO Teacher Exhibition and Conference

PGE

invites any K-12 classroom teacher to attend a **FREE** Solar Schools EXPO on Wednesday, May 6 from 8-4 p.m. at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, located in Stockton near the airport. **PGE will provide a substitute reimbursement form to fill out, as well as breakfast and lunch.** You must sign up by the **deadline of April 10** in order to attend, as space is limited and registration is on a first come-first served basis. To download a registration form, use this web link to the PGE Solar Schools Program EXPO.

<http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/EXPOMay2009.pdf>

During the Solar Schools EXPO you will meet some of California's best and brightest teachers as they share how they have energized their students and classrooms with energy education projects funded by Bright Ideas grants. You will also have an opportunity to attend up to 3 energy education breakout sessions and learn how to bring these important topics to you classroom using NEED materials. Attend the breakout session and receive the kits free. ***This is an excellent opportunity for any K-12 teacher in our region to receive high quality materials and information for free, and to have PGE reimburse the school for the substitute cost up to \$ 100.*** If you have further questions about this one day conference, you may email the PGE Solar Schools Coordinator, Barry Scott, at [bscott@need.org](mailto:bscott@need.org)

### Student math competitions

The Stanislaus Math Council would like you to mark your calendar for the following spring **2009 math student competitions**. It is not too late to register your top math students for these events. If you would like to enter these student competitions, you may contact the person in charge of the event for registration forms.

- Saturday, April 25, 2009  
(Contact-Tom Abram [tabram@csustan.edu](mailto:tabram@csustan.edu)) **High School Math competition**
- Saturday, May 2, 2009  
(Contact- John Leamy [leamyj@yosemite.edu](mailto:leamyj@yosemite.edu)) **Dick Schaff Junior High Super Bowl competition**

***I would encourage you to register now for these student mathematics competitions, as they are filling up fast.***

### Saturday Workshop from California Subject Matter Projects

Where can you find a

low cost region workshop (**only \$ 15 dollars**) that does not require a substitute for your classroom and is subject matter specific? At the San Joaquin County Office of Education, on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** There will be a variety of content sessions to choose from, including an Arts strand; Vocabulary session; Hands-On Science resources; Forensics and Math; and two different writing sessions. To register for this workshop, go to [http://region6.sjcoe.net/2009\\_Ed\\_Faire](http://region6.sjcoe.net/2009_Ed_Faire)

The deadline to register is March 9, 2009. For further information, you can call Christina at 209-953-2102.

### 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. *You can register your science fair projects online right now at our SCOE web site.* 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](mailto:rbartkowski@stancoe.org)

**ING Grant Money for K-12 Educators** The ING Unsung Heroes program has helped more than a thousand K-12 educators and their schools fund innovative classroom projects. All K-12 education professionals are eligible, whether they are clients of ING or not. Each of the 100 finalists will receive \$ 2000 dollars for a school project. Of the 100 finalists, the first place program will receive \$ 25,000 dollars. The **deadline to apply for this grant is April 30, 2009** and information about the ING grant can be found at (copy and paste in your web browser) <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/Education/INGUnsungHeroes/index.htm>

*In our current budget times, it makes sense to spend some time applying for grants to fund programs and projects that support our students.*

**MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)** There are two evening events from MAPS in the month of March. Both promise to be exciting and both are FREE. What a great way to spend an evening with your kids that doesn't cost anything and adds to their knowledge about science and the world. The first event is **Friday, March 13, 2009 with two presentations, one at 3:30 p.m. and the next at 7:30 in Forum 110.** "The Chemistry of Fire" features Igor Skaredoff, as he combines a PowerPoint presentation and live fire/explosion demonstrations. So far, he has not set of any fire alarms or sprinklers with his presentation.

Next, mark your calendar for **Friday, March 27, 2009** for an evening with Joe Mueller, Professor of Biology at College of Marin, who will share a photographic journey investigating the mutualistic nature of marine life along our California coastline. 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/>

**Forestry Institute for Teachers (F.I.T.)** F.I.T. is a nationally recognized standards based program that has graduated over 1,600 teachers since 1993 and features California's classroom in the forest. Registration is now being accepted for the week of June 28 – July 3, 2009 at the Sierra Outdoor School in Sonora. You can call the F.I.T. hotline at **209-770-0364** or go to the web site at [www.forestryinstitute.org/](http://www.forestryinstitute.org/) to register. Learn about California's forests and how you can integrate these lessons into many subject areas, including environmental science, physical science, social science, math, biology, forestry, and history. This workshop is appropriate for any K-12 educator in California. The week long institute features hands-on , science based lessons that are correlated with the California Department of Education's subject area standards and goals for Environmental Education. **Applications received by March 13, 2009 receive priority consideration. This workshop fills up fast. The best part – the entire week institute is FREE, including meals and lodging and materials.** You just have to drive yourself to the camp. To hold a spot at the institute, you submit a \$ 20 dollars non-refundable deposit. I would encourage you to sign up soon, and to bring a colleague with you.