

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

**Mathematics Conference** Mark your calendar for the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual California Mathematics Council (CMC) conference at Asilomar on December 4-6, 2009. This is a Friday – Sunday, the first weekend of December. The theme of this year’s conference is “**Mathematics is Multi-Faceted**”. This conference features keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, Make-It Take-It sessions, interactive sessions, and focus group discussions all around the theme. Over 250 sessions across three days offer a rich variety of experiences to suit every grade level and strand of mathematics. Over 2000 teachers and administrators from all grade levels attend this annual conference, and you can learn about the latest news and issues in mathematics education. This conference fills up fast and registration and additional information is available on the website at <http://www.cmc-math.org/>

**MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)** Mark your calendar for Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for an evening with MJC Earth Science Professor Mike Whittier, for a presentation on the subject “**Tornadoes in the San Joaquin Valley**”. He will explain how winds and terrain create tornadoes right here in the San Joaquin Valley. This is part of the **free lecture** series sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. ***Bring the whole family to learn some weather basics and find out if you live in a tornado hot-spot!*** The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and continues until 9:00 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/>

**Exploring Integers – How can you make this topic interesting for your students?** The Stanislaus Math Council is hosting an after school hands-on workshop for all K-8 classroom teachers on this topic. The workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, November 12 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** in the Elmdale Room (lower level) at SCOE. The cost of the workshop is only **\$ 10 dollars** and you will also receive a one year membership in the Stanislaus Math Council. The presenter will be Carol Vieira, an instructional math coach who works for Modesto City Schools and is on the board for the Math Council. Carol will have hands-on activities for you to engage in learning and then have ready to take back to the classroom and use with your students. **Teachers will learn how to use manipulatives like tile spaces, cubes, and algebra tiles to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers from whole numbers to negative numbers.** If you are already a member of the Stanislaus Math Council, this workshop is FREE.

**STARLAB** Are you interested in bringing the night sky into your school and classroom? Engage your students in learning about the solar system. The STARLAB portable planetarium is a no cost way of taking your students to a Planetarium without leaving the school. **If you are a 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and you want to bring your earth science standards to life for your students, then register to attend our workshop on Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 – 12 noon at Salida Elementary School in the gym.** This workshop is sponsored by Stanislaus County Office of Education and the cost is only **\$ 30 dollars** and that includes an \$ 18 dollar Teacher Guide as well as training on how to use the STARLAB portable planetarium. Our presenter is Mike Oakes, a local 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and he will take you inside STARLAB and show you how to use it. After attending this workshop, you are eligible to check out STARLAB at no cost to you or the school from SCOE. Registration is available online at <http://stanislaus.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=447&id=30963>  
Registration is limited to the first 25 teachers to sign up.

### **2010 Honeywell Educators Space Academy**

Do you teach students ages 10 – 14? Are you interested in an *all expenses paid summer academy to Huntsville Alabama* to learn new ways to bring math and science to life for your students? Would you like to spend a week at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center with other teachers and receive lessons and activities correlated to the National Science and Math Standards? And it is all FREE? If so, then apply for a full teacher scholarship for one of the summer 2010 Space Camp programs. *The scholarship includes full tuition, roundtrip airfare, meals and double occupancy, all materials, and a flight suit to keep and wear with your science lessons.* The deadline to apply is December 31, 2009. You can also earn three units of professional development credit for an additional fee. Two Stanislaus County teachers attended last summer, one from Empire and one from Turlock and they had a fantastic experience. Find out more details at this link.

<http://www51.honeywell.com/hhs/ourprograms-sub/scimathedu-sub/honeywelledu.html?c=31>

### **Toyota Tapestry Grants**

**Deadline: January 18, 2010**

The Toyota Tapestry Grants program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that will enhance science education during the 2010-11 school year. The program will award 50 large grants and a minimum of 20 mini-grants, totaling \$550,000 in all, for projects in the categories of Physical Science Application, Environmental Science Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science.

<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry>

### **Stanislaus County Science Fair**

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a **county science fair for grades K-8 the week of May 10-14, 2010**. 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](mailto: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](http://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.

### **Global Climate Change and the Antarctic**

Are you interested in educating your elementary students on the topic of climate change? Would you like to hear and see a first hand report from a local scientist who visited Antarctica? *One local retired MJC professor has a fascinating presentation on his recent visit to Antarctica and the effects of global climate change and he is willing to share that presentation with students at no cost.* Professor Richard Anderson retired from MJC and is interested in sharing his knowledge of science with elementary students. If your school would like more information or would like to schedule an assembly with him, email [andersonr@yosemite.edu](mailto:andersonr@yosemite.edu)