

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

### Math workshops after school

The Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting an after school math content workshop on Wednesday, October 14 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. The cost of the *workshop is only \$ 10 dollars*, and there will be two distinct sessions. *The first session is for teachers in grades 2-4, and the second session is for teachers in grades 5-7.* These workshops will run simultaneously and you will walk away with ideas for teaching math content standards to your students.

### Teach Science Standards While Students Learn about the Delta

Delta Studies offers teachers in grades K-12 the opportunity to learn about the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta and then share Delta-based activities with students while still meeting the California State Science Standards. Interested? The Delta Studies Institute begins Saturday, October 3 with a full day tour of the Delta from the cross channel gates near Walnut Grove to the fish screens and pumping plants near Tracy. Two follow up afternoons will cover the curriculum and teacher projects. The Delta Studies Institute will not require you to be out of your classroom for any of the learning. *The best part – the cost of the Institute is only \$ 25 dollars, which includes the Delta tour, curriculum, materials kits for use in the classroom and four meals. Better news – a stipend of \$ 200 dollars is awarded upon completion*, and one unit of professional development is available at an additional cost to the participant. To register, go to the web site at <http://imeet.sjcoe.net/deltastudies/Site/Welcome.html> Or you can email Connie Bock at [cbock@sjcoe.net](mailto:cbock@sjcoe.net) or phone her at 209-468-4880. Hurry, as space is limited and they will fill up fast.

### MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for an evening with Academy Award – nominated and Emmy winning documentary filmmaker Larry Lansburgh for a compelling film presentation called **“David and Goliath in the Amazon”**. Using sequences from his documentary film “Dream People of the Amazon”, Lansburgh’s presentation focuses on the Achuar, an indigenous people who live in a part of the Amazon rain forest that has hardly changed in a thousand years. Deep in the Amazon, director Lansburgh learned how the Achuar people have protected their rain forest from the seemingly overwhelming destructive power of the modern world’s thirst for oil. 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 the MJC Auditorium on the Modesto Junior College East campus. For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

**Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009** MAPS is proud to introduce Dr. Kirsten Sanford, and her presentation titled **“This Is Your Life on Science”- a Generational Exploration of the Many Ways Science Affects Everyone Everyday**. Dr Kiki has appeared on CBS’s The Doctors, and her presentation will talk about the ways that science has been changing the ways we interact with our environment and how things that used to seem like science fiction are now common place. Where are we now and where will we be in 50 years? How is science going to affect our lives as we age? This is part of the **free lecture series** sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. *You will want to bring your own children with you to this presentation: Dr. Kiki has designed her presentation to include video, slide shows, and demonstrations.* The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the MJC Auditorium on the Modesto Junior College East campus and includes FREE parking and admission. For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

**2009 Earth Science Week Toolkits Now Available** The American Geological Institute (AGI), in conjunction with Earth Science Week 2009 (October 11–17), released a new toolkit that enables students, educators and the general public to fully explore this year’s theme, “Understanding Climate.” The 2009 Earth Science Week Toolkit features a variety of educational climate resources from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The toolkits are available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$6.95 in the United States). To order, visit the Earth Science Week website at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/materials/>

**Math resources website** – Check out this Loyola University, Chicago website that uses **QuickTime movies** to teach math skills: <http://countdown.luc.edu/>  
**These are FREE and easy to use in the classroom.** Try using them to teach difficult math concepts to your students. Keep this web site handy. Our students are visual learners and these videos will help you provide explanations to difficult concepts and math content. These quality videos were produced by Loyola University at Chicago in the School of Education. You can search for lessons by math strand (number sense, algebra, geometry, measurement, etc.) or by content (from acute angle to zero). They are all free resources to help you as you pre-teach, or re-teach, or to simply lend another voice to the classroom presentation environment.

**CatchUp Math Online Tutorial for Students** Yes, students can get caught up in math, as **CatchUp Math** is an easy to use, affordable online tutorial service for students who are behind in math and need to catch up. Created by the company HotMath, **CatchUp Math covers Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 only. This service was designed with secondary schools as their target audience.** It will also prepare students for the math portion of the state exit exam. This online tutorial is designed to provide a cycle of online quizzes, followed by personalized online review and practice. Review materials include math videos, lessons, Flash learning activities, and games. Practice problems are explained with step by step, self paced tutorials. Check it out at <http://catchupmath.com/>

**DNA Lab Kits from MJC Ag Science Center** Looking for a **FREE** and easy activity for your students to teach them about DNA? **Teachers in grades K-12** are able to check out the self contained kit which allows students to perform a lab procedure in which they extract DNA from strawberries. Interested in bringing this to your classroom? Contact Dave Menshew at Enochs High School for more information at [Menshew.d@monet.k12.ca.us](mailto:Menshew.d@monet.k12.ca.us) or *call the Ag Science Center at MJC at 209-521-2902 and ask for Michelle Laverty.*

**Stanislaus Math Council** You are invited to attend an after-school workshop with math instructor Lori Scott as she teaches you how to incorporate the mathematics of building *tetrahedral kites* and then incorporating them into your standards based lessons. The workshop is only \$ 10 dollars and will be held on **Thursday, September 17 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** here at the Stanislaus COE located at 1100 H street. Everything you need to build kites, including directions for use back in your classroom the very next day. If you are already a member of the Stanislaus Math Council, this workshop is free. Use the kites with your science fair, Back-to-School event, geometry lessons, Family Math Night, or even for Mothers Day or Fathers Day gift ideas. The workshop is open to any teacher in grades K-12.