



November 30, 2007

Dear Teachers,

We hope you had a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving. Our Fall workshop season is almost over, with just two left on the schedule – “Maps are Cool!” and “Hands-on Optics” are both coming up this Saturday, December 1. Thank you to all the participants – you’ve made the Fall workshops fun and rewarding for everyone involved!

We encourage workshop participants to use the activities you learn in the Saturday workshops in your classrooms. Arlene Vinion-Dubiel, your Instructional Support Specialist, will be accessible only by email until February 2008, as she is due any moment now to have her second child. She is happy to help via email with ideas and planning during that time, and she will forward any requests for equipment to other Science by Inquiry staff. When she returns, she will once again offer classroom support and equipment help. We are excited to meet the new baby, and wish Arlene all the best in her maternity leave.

On November 8-10, we hosted three workshops about inquiry-based teaching at the VAST (Virginia Association of Science Teachers, [www.vast.org](http://www.vast.org)) conference in Williamsburg, VA. The workshops were a great success! Two teacher-participants from the program helped to guide the workshops – many thanks to Betty Tabony (Nelson) and Julie Britt (Buckingham)! We were also happy to meet another teacher-participant, Amy McCarty (Altavista), at the conference. We encourage local teachers to attend the VAST conference next year (Hampton Roads Convention Center, November 13-15, 2008) to learn new teaching methods, to connect with your colleagues, and to get re-energized about teaching (not to mention fun activities like learning about physics by riding rollercoasters!). Here's the happy group:



from left:  
Busch Gardens employee;  
Project co-Director Jill Granger;  
Program Coordinator Pam  
Simpson; Biology Professor Robin  
Davies; Nelson County teacher  
Betty Tabony; Buckingham County  
teacher Julie Britt; Altavista County  
teacher Amy McCarty; Busch  
Gardens employee

Check out these opportunities for you and your students:

(You can also find these and other opportunities for grants and professional development on our website, [www.sxi.sbc.edu](http://www.sxi.sbc.edu). Feel free to contact Jane Haxby, your administrative ISS, at [jhaxby@sbcc.edu](mailto:jhaxby@sbcc.edu), for help writing grant applications, papers, etc.)



Submit a proposal for funding for supplies or equipment for a class project at [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org), and donors can choose which projects to support. Check out other proposals on the site to get an idea of what to ask for and how to ask. There is **no deadline**.



Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers is accepting proposals for innovative projects to enhance science education in your school or school district. 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20-32 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to K-12 teachers of science in the United States. The categories are Physical Science, Environmental Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science. Find more information at <http://ecommerce2.nsta.org/toyota/>. Submission deadline is **January 28, 2008**.



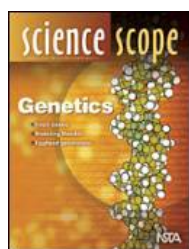
The Exploravision award program rewards student innovation and invention. Find information about the contest and resources for teachers leading or coaching invention teams at <http://www.exploravision.org/teacher-resources/>. Entries are submitted by grade (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12) and are due **January 29, 2008**.



Lowe's sponsors a grant program to support outdoor classroom construction. They will award grants of up to \$2,000 to 100 schools across the country this year. Find information and application instructions at

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowe/outdoor/apply1.html>.

The next application due date is **December 31, 2008**.



The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is calling for papers for their middle school-oriented *Science Scope* journal. For the September 2008 issue, devoted to "Developing Inquiry Skills," the NSTA is soliciting papers about middle school classroom activities that develop students' inquiry skills. Find the call for papers at <http://www.nsta.org/publications/call-scope.aspx>. Find advice for prospective authors at <http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/writestart.pdf>. Submissions are due by **January 31, 2008**.

We will send out the Spring program brochure within the next couple of weeks. Check the website for updated program and other information. And remember, we're here to help you! Let us know what you're up to. Email your Instructional Support Specialists, Arlene Vinion-Dubiel, at [dubiel@sbcc.edu](mailto:dubiel@sbcc.edu), with questions about ideas, resources, and more, and Jane Haxby, at [jhaxby@sbcc.edu](mailto:jhaxby@sbcc.edu), with questions about grant and paper writing.

We wish you all the best as you wind down your semester. Happy holidays!

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