

March 14, 2006



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Dear Teachers,

Here's a quick reminder about our remaining Saturday workshops. You can also access workshop information on our website [www.sxi.sbc.edu](http://www.sxi.sbc.edu). Here's the lineup for **April**:

**April 1** "Microscopy" instructed by Robin Davies

**April 8** "Watershed" instructed by Judy Strang

**April 22** "Our Green Planet" instructed by Heather Griscom

If you have not yet signed up for a workshop and are interested in participating, please email Jill Granger at [granger@sbc.edu](mailto:granger@sbc.edu). You can also share this information with colleagues who may like to participate or who might not know about our workshops. The workshops are free and open to any teachers in central Virginia.

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## MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!!

**June 20-22:** We will offer a 3-day workshop on "Light, Color, and Energy", focusing on fundamental concepts as well as interesting classroom activities. We will introduce participants to our set of Educator Spec-20s (available for loan to teachers) but the workshop will be more broad-based than that. Activities will be tailored for grade 5-8 teachers (who will get priority on registration). Workshop hours are 9:00-3:00 each day and the 16 teachers accepted to the workshop will get a \$150 stipend upon completing the workshop. Hurry up and register!

**June 26-30:** This will be our week long Summer Teacher Workshop. We are planning a "conference style" workshop (there will be some choice of workshop sessions) focusing on inquiry methods in math and science for teachers in grades 3-8. We will cap enrollment at 50 teachers. This workshop is dependent on our receiving money from SCHEV but if you are interested, please let us know in advance so once we receive the "go ahead" you'll already be registered.

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## Did you know?

Children who look away from their teacher's gaze when asked a question are more likely to be processing the question than avoiding it, according to a study conducted by the University of Stirling in Scotland. Researchers believe that teachers mistakenly interpret students' "gaze aversion" as their failure to understand a question and do not allow them enough time to compose

an answer. “There is this idea of ‘look at me when I’m talking to you,’ but it should be okay to look away at some point of the interaction,” said one researcher. The research, which was published in the *British Journal of Developmental Psychology* and reported by BBC New online (January 11), found that children who avert their eyes from their teacher’s gaze are more likely to respond correctly to the question asked. (From NSTA Reports, March 2006).

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## Here are some websites you may find interesting . . .

[www.weatherclassroom.com](http://www.weatherclassroom.com) The Weather Channel presents a set of realistic weather conditions and students learn how to make important safety decisions during severe weather events.

[www.teachingboxes.org](http://www.teachingboxes.org) Teaching Boxes, from the Digital Library for Earth System Education, help bridge the gap between teaching/learning resources and understanding. Topics include “Evidence for plate tectonics”, “Essentials of weather”, “Feeding frenzy: seasonal upwelling”, “Global ups and downs: changing sea level”, “Living in earthquake country”, and “Mountain building”.

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We’re here to help you! Let us know what you’re up to. You can email Laurna at [kaatz01@sbc.edu](mailto:kaatz01@sbc.edu) or Jill at [granger@sbc.edu](mailto:granger@sbc.edu). Take time to check out our website at [www.sxi.sbc.edu](http://www.sxi.sbc.edu).

Call or email if you need any assistance – ideas, resources, supplies, etc.



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