



September 16, 2007

Dear Teachers,

Welcome back to school!

Look for your brochure of fall workshops in the mail this week. Starting this fall, workshops participants will not only enjoy free tuition, lunch and workshop supplies, they will each receive a stipend of **\$60/day!**

Here's a quick reminder of the Saturday workshops we'll be offering in the fall:



September 29 "U.S. Customary and Metric Measurement Standards to Investigate Fractions, Decimals, and Percents"

September 29 "We're All Downstream"

October 27 "From Bacteria to Dinosaurs: How Evolution Shapes Our World"

November 10 "Geometry: The Bridge Between Math and Art"

December 1 "Maps are Cool! Integrating Math, Science, and Social Studies"

December 1 "Hands-on Optics: Lenses and Refraction"

Workshops are open to teachers and educators in central Virginia. We recommend that participants arrive about 15 minutes early (at 8:45) to do paperwork. Workshops start around 9am and are over by about 3pm, with a break for lunch. We will provide certificates documenting completion of five instructional hours; consult with your school HR departments to translate the hours into points.

For more details and registration information, go to our website, www.sxi.sbc.edu. Please share this information with your colleagues who might like to participate. We look forward to seeing you!

Staff changes in the Science by Inquiry project:

Laurna Kaatz has moved on. We thank her for all her dedicated work as Instructional Support Specialist and wish her the best of luck in all her endeavors.

We welcome Arlene Vinion-Dubiel and Jane Haxby as our new co-ISSs. Arlene Vinion-Dubiel, a chemistry and biology professor at Sweet Briar College, is your source for help

in the classroom. Contact her at dubiel@sbc.edu for help planning and teaching inquiry-based classroom activities, for answers to conceptual and practical questions, and for help with supplies and training. Jane Haxby handles the administrative responsibilities of the ISS, including updating the website and sending newsletters. Contact her at jhaxby@sbc.edu for help applying for outside funding for classroom-related projects.

Fun Fall Facts

Crickets sing the temperature. Calculate the chill of a fall evening in degrees Fahrenheit by counting the number of cricket chirps in 14 seconds and adding 40.



The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,502 pounds. It was grown by Ron Wallace in Rhode Island in 2006. The world's largest pumpkin pie weighed 2,020 pounds. It was baked in Ohio in 2005.

Some websites you might find interesting...

5 Myths about Girls and Science, online at
http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=109939



Fall is a great time to learn about trees and their leaves! Find SOL-correlated lesson information and hands-on data collection activities designed by Virginia Tech students at
<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/index.htm>.

Celebrate science in October...

National Metric Week is October 8-12 (containing 10/10/07, the 10th day of the 10th month). Find ideas on how to incorporate measurement into your math and science lessons at <http://www.nctm.org/metric-week.aspx>.



Earth Science Week is October 14-20. This year's theme is "The Pulse of Earth Science." Find out more at
<http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/index.html>.

National Chemistry Week is October 21-27. This year's theme is "The Many Faces of Chemistry." Find out more at
http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw%5cncw_index.html.



Funding opportunities

Following is a short list of funding opportunities you may be interested in. Check out the websites for more information, and contact Jane Haxby, your co-Instructional Support Specialist, for help articulating your needs and writing a proposal.



Toyota TAPESTRY Grants: Go to <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/index.htm> for details and application forms. Grants of up to \$10,000 and mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to science teachers and will fund innovative science projects. Online proposals are due January 28, 2008.

Delta Education/Frey-NEO/CPO Science Education Awards for Excellence in Inquiry-Based Science Teaching: Go to <http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx> for details about this and other science teaching awards from the National Science Teachers Association. This award honors full-time PreK-12 teachers who successfully use inquiry-based science to enhance teaching and learning in their classroom. The award includes \$1,500 to attend the NSTA conference and another \$1,500 for the teacher. Application deadline (for this and other science teacher grants on the site) is October 15.

Grants for gardening: Go to <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants.asp> for details and application forms. The site links to several grant programs designed to fund child-centered garden projects inside the classroom and outdoors. Application deadlines range from September 30 to November 1.



Fund for Teachers: Go to <http://www.fundforteachers.org/> for details and application forms. Grants support travel and personal enrichment opportunities for teachers. Online applications will be available starting October 1, and applications are due January 31, 2008.

We're here to help you! Let us know what you're up to. Email your Instructional Support Specialist, Arlene Vinion-Dubiel, at dubiel@sbc.edu with any questions about ideas, resources, supplies, and more.

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