



SCIENCE BYTES

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POLAR-PALOOZA

POLAR-PALOOZA teams up with two other nationally known conservation education programs, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree to engage teachers and students in exploring the many ways the rapidly changing Arctic and Antarctic affect the health and functioning of the entire Earth system, no matter where we live.

Meet the scientists and hear from Arctic residents tell personal stories of life and research in Polar Regions, supported by dramatic video footage and Internet resources. Delve into the realm of ice physics, endangered species, and global changes. The Poles are changing faster than anywhere else on our entire world. Learn how these changes are directly affecting Alaska and native Alaskans and how we can work together towards solutions.

This workshop is available for credit and will be offered at the Anchorage Museum. While open to all educators, the content and activities are geared toward middle

and high school students. Teachers must attend the workshop's two sessions: Tuesday, May 6th from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, May 10th from 9-4:30 p.m.

Contact John Tyson, Project WILD Coordinator for registration and more information at 907-267-2216 or john.tyson@alaska.gov.

FLINN Safety Notes - Flammable Liquids

You and your fellow science teachers will want to review this month's Science Department Safety Training Notes from Flinn Scientific entitled "Flammable Liquid Safety"—it's an important topic. We provide you with general precautions and review the properties of flammable liquids as a basis for suggestions regarding purchase, storage, use, and disposal.

The safety of you and your students is our number one concern. When you have a safety question, check the Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual, give us a call, or visit our Web site. Our team of scientists is here to serve you. Your support—the orders you place with Flinn Scientific—helps make this problem-solving safety information available to science teachers nationwide. Order all your supplies from Flinn, "Your Safer Source for Science Supplies."

To print "Flammable Liquid Safety," please go to:

<http://www.flinnsci.com/Sections/Safety/Snotes/snotes.asp>

NASA Announces Challenges for Students

NASA Quest LIMA Challenge for Students in Grades 4-8

In this challenge, students become scientists and propose Antarctic research. The Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica is the first true-color high-resolution satellite view of the Antarctic continent. Using this view of Antarctica, students must develop a research question and debate the value of studying the chosen feature. Registration is currently open and educational resources are available online.

For more information, visit

<http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lima>.

Spring 2008 Cassini Scientist for a Day Contest

The Cassini Scientist for a Day contest challenges students to become NASA scientists studying Saturn. Participants are challenged to examine three target images taken by Cassini and choose the one that they think will yield the best scientific results. This choice must then be explained in a 500-word essay.

The contest is open to all students in the United States from grades 5-12, working alone or in groups of up to four students. The essays will be divided into three groups: grades 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12. All submissions must be students' original work. Each student can submit only one entry.

Deadline for Spring 2008 submissions is noon Pacific time (3 p.m. EDT) on May 8, 2008. For more information, visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/scientist/>. If you have questions about this contest, please e-mail your inquiries to scientistforaday@jpl.nasa.gov.

PLAN to ATTEND

NSTA Regional Conferences – 2008

October – Charlotte, NC: October 30-November 1, 2008

November – Portland, OR: November 20-22, 2008

December – Cincinnati, OH: December 4-6, 2008

2009 National NSTA Conference –

New Orleans, LA – March 19-22, 2009

Applications to Teacher-Leader Program, Best Practices Day Now Being Accepted

Applications are now being accepted to the 2008 National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program and Best Practices Day. Teachers from across the United States and around the world participate in the Biotechnology Institute's premier teacher training program during the International Conference on Biotechnology Education. This four-day program, which will be held June 14-17 in San Diego, CA, provides participating teachers professional development, resources and other support materials to spread awareness of biotechnology to their students and to educate their peers to do the same. The program includes sessions that highlight state-of-the-art curriculum, labs, and programs in biotechnology; networking with colleagues, industry leaders, and professionals in the field of biotechnology education; training on how to provide professional development to other teachers; field trips to local biotechnology companies; and a \$250 certificate from Invitrogen for supplies and equipment. Applicants are responsible for securing sponsorship. The application deadline is April 1.

The Institute is also accepting applications from presenters who want to share their high-quality educational practices and programs with educators. Educators who have developed exemplary science, math and technology programs related to biotechnology will help the Institute develop a body of outstanding teaching practices and programs available to all educators of biotechnology.

K-16 biotechnology educators from academia, nonprofit, and industry with exemplary programs are invited to submit proposals for Best Practices Day, which will be held June 16, 2008. Deadline for submission is April 30. For information, visit http://www.biotechinstitute.org/programs/t_leader_program.html or contact the Biotechnology Institute at 703.248.8681

Opportunity to become a MESSENGER Educator Fellow

National Center for Earth and Space Science Education
MESSENGER is a NASA Discovery mission that was launched in 2004. In January 2008, MESSENGER became only the second spacecraft ever to fly by Mercury, and the first to take pictures of the previously unseen side of the planet. After two more flybys, MESSENGER will go into orbit around Mercury in 2011 to begin a year-long, comprehensive study of the planet.

The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education is recruiting 30 practicing teachers or teacher trainers to become the next cadre of MESSENGER Educator Fellows. These Fellows help bring the excitement of this challenging mission to classrooms nationwide by training teachers on the Solar System-focused education materials written in support of the mission. The Fellowship includes an all-expense paid five-day training workshop in Washington, DC, in June 2008.

Applications are due April 18, 2008.

For more information, please contact Dr. Harri Vanhala the MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program Manager at hvanhala@usra.edu

Nebraska Scientific Laboratory Safety Institute

Nebraska Scientific has partnered with LSI to bring teachers a nationally recognized laboratory safety training session to your local area in 2008. For more information, the complete schedule and more details, visit www.NebraskaScientific.com !

Laboratory Safety Wall Posters - 10/set - Nebraska Scientific has partnered with the University Nebraska Medical Center to distribute these multicultural safety posters developed to build interest among Native American students seeking careers in health care and the science professions. For more information, see UNMC01 at www.NebraskaScientific.com !

Science Room Planning Service - If you are renovating or planning new science classrooms, Nebraska Scientific offers a Science Room Planning Service including consulting on space planning, furniture & equipment, specification development and project management. For a

FREE Lab Planning Packet or more details, contact your representative at www.NebraskaScientific.com !

For more information, please visit Nebraska Scientific at...<http://www.NebraskaScientific.com>

NSTA New Science Teacher Academy 2008-2009

The application for the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy 2008-2009 cohort opens April 1, 2008. For further information and the application, visit <http://www.nsta.org/Academy>.

As a NSTA Fellow, you will receive:

Comprehensive NSTA membership and its benefits;
An opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional development activities, including web seminars

Unlimited use of resources including vetted web links for lesson plans, links to state and national standards, professional organizations, safety tips and more;

An opportunity to participate in e-Mentoring developed by NSTA, the New Teacher Center, and Montana State University that includes:

e-Mentoring with an experienced teacher in the same science discipline and grade level;

Facilitated online curriculum that focuses on science content and applicable classroom pedagogy;

Access to a nationwide, online network of science educators and scientists that facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and resources;

Accommodations, coverage of airfare, food, and registration fees to attend the NSTA national conference;

An opportunity to participate in specialized conference pathways and to participate in a Research Dissemination Conference or a Professional Development Institute.

Eligibility:

New Science Teacher Academy Fellows must be:

Located throughout the country*

Entering their second or third year of teaching

Working a schedule with 51% of their classes in middle or high school science.

*Applicants must be residents of one of the 50 states or four U.S. jurisdictions. The jurisdictions are Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; Department of Defense Schools; and the U.S. territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).



Remember:

Science is Cool!

Alaska Science & Engineering Fair

April 11-13

Begich Middle School.