



SCIENCE BYTES

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This is an information exchange that is available to all teachers in the Anchorage School District. Please read and then DO it!

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from Newsletter of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development November 21, 2008

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For your Calendar:

NSTA Conferences 2008-2009

NSTA Regional Conferences – 2008

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

2009 National NSTA Conference

New Orleans, LA – March 19-22, 2009

Science Fair 2008 - 09

Alaska Science and Engineering Fair

March 27-29, 2008 @ Begich Middle School - Anchorage

Looking for volunteers for the SF Board.

Science Olympiad 2008-09

April 4, 2009 @ Begich Middle School - Anchorage

2009 - Alaska Math & Science Conference

INQUIRY - The Bridge to Understanding

October 14-17, 2009 Juneau, AK

NASA Offers New Science Teaching Certificate Project

WASHINGTON -- NASA has unveiled the Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project, which will award more than 200 fellowships to educators during a five year period. Educators accepted into the project will be exposed to current NASA science and engineering and supported in translating the information for use in classrooms.

The goal of the project is to ensure that teachers across the country can use the discoveries that NASA makes on a daily basis to inspire the next generation of explorers, scientists, engineers, and astronauts.

The program will provide workshops, online and on-site graduate courses and NASA content and materials to teachers and students in K-12 classrooms. NASA will work in partnership with state departments of education to ensure program participants can apply credit from project courses towards state certification requirements.

"Through the program, educators will learn to deliver cutting-edge science into the classroom, promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics education," said Joyce L. Winterton, assistant administrator for education at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "This will include proven NASA and NASA-sponsored educational resources to meet specific learning goals."

Project fellows will earn a certificate of completion in Applied Science Education from Teachers College Innovations at Teachers College, Columbia University, N.Y., and graduate credit from other institutional partners.

Additional project efforts include assisting and training pre-service science teachers to help improve science instruction in U.S. schools.

The project will be administered by the U.S. Satellite Laboratory Inc. of Rye, N.Y. Funding for the program is provided through the NASA Endeavor Teacher Fellowship Trust Fund, in tribute to the dedicated crew of the space shuttle Challenger.

For additional information about the Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project and other NASA education programs, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/education>

"Your NASA Dream Experience" Contest

"Your NASA Dream Experience" is a nationwide contest as seen in Seventeen Magazine. A team of two students (ages 16-20) and an educator/sponsor will earn the chance to spend three days at either Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, or Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

This opportunity will include job shadowing and behind the scenes experiences during the spring of 2009.

The deadline for entries for the contest is Dec. 15, 2008.

For more information about the contest, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/education/seventeen.html>.

If you have any questions about the Johnson Space Center experience, please contact Susan H. Anderson at 281-483-8630. For questions about the Kennedy Space Center experience, please contact Cheryl Johnson at 321-867-4602.

Online Math / Science Concept Simulations

Here's a neat site with online simulations of math and science concepts:

<http://phet.colorado.edu/simulations/index.php>

Martina Henke

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Anchorage School District

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<http://www.edtechnak.com>

Mars Rover Naming Contest for grades K-12

<http://marsrovername.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Free Nutrition Kit from National Dairy Council

Please note this nutrition kit from the National Dairy Council is shipping free to schools for a limited time.

<http://www.schoolwellnesskit.org/>

Also be sure you've gone to www.eatsmart.org and received your annual \$20 allotment of free materials from the Washington Dairy Council, which also serves Alaska. The new cycle begins at the first of the year.

If I can help you promote agricultural literacy in your school, let me know. Please be sure you've marked Tuesday, May 5, 2009 on your calendar. That's Alaska Agriculture Day. More on that in the weeks to come.

Victoria Naegele

Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom

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fax 746-2173

www.agclassroom.org/ak

UA's Science Education Outreach Offers Listserv

The University of Alaska's Science Education Outreach Network provides a science outreach listserv.

If you are interested in receiving updates and notifications about UA science outreach opportunities, you can sign up here:

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/mailman/listinfo/scienceoutreach-l>

<<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/mailman/listinfo/scienceoutreach-l>>

Portable Planetarium in the Works for Rural Alaska

With help from a \$488,000 NASA grant, the University of Alaska Museum of the North and scientists at the UAF Geophysical Institute are joining forces to bring the state's only digital portable planetarium to communities in rural Alaska.

Project organizers Robert Herrick, a research associate professor in planetary sciences, and Laura Conner, museum education director, hope the traveling planetarium show and related community activities will inspire students, particularly Alaska Native students, to choose careers in science and engineering.

The grant will support the development of an Alaska-specific planetarium program and "NASA Days" in rural communities over the next three years. The "NASA Days" will include planetarium shows for schoolchildren designed to illustrate grade-specific science concepts; workshops for local teachers that will provide educational materials and activities to be used throughout the school year; and an evening community science night with planetarium shows and activities highlighting current NASA research.

Herrick and Conner hope to incorporate Alaska Native knowledge and elders' stories about the night sky and planetary phenomena to give the planetarium shows even more Alaska context.

The program concept was tested this spring, both locally in Fairbanks and in the North Slope communities of Barrow and Nuiqsut. The response to the pilot programs was universally positive. Herrick and Conner hope to take the program to another 50 communities, many of them off the road system, beginning in late spring 2009.

Communities interested in scheduling a "NASA Day" can contact the museum at 907-474-5360 or e-mail museum.education@uaf.edu.

NASA's Digital Learning Network

Dear Partners in Education,

NASA's Digital Learning Network (DLN) wants to let you know about a very exciting educational opportunity taking place in December 2008! NASA's

Digital Learning network is inviting you and your students to take part in Antarctica: Meteorite Mysteries - the Search for Space Rocks.

Meteorite Mysteries, The Search for Space Rocks
If you're looking for a way to capture your students' attention while teaching them science and technology concepts in the context of real research, then this is the project you've been searching for! Prior to the live event students gain insights and knowledge through selected activities that are related to the real-life task of collecting and analyzing meteorites. During the video conference your students will have the opportunity to talk directly to NASA researchers and gain a better understanding of the importance and impact of meteorites as clues to the building blocks of planets and life in our solar system!

A NASA Scientist will connect live, via satellite phone, with NASA's Digital Learning Network (DLN) team of experts while searching for pieces of space in the blue and white world of Antarctica! Selected schools from across the country will have the opportunity to participate in a highly interactive video conference experience with NASA scientists at Johnson Space Center, NASA scientist Mary Sue Bell and other researchers in Antarctica as they search for meteorites, learn to work as a team in extreme environments, and help to answer questions about life on other planets!

This extreme environment mission is scheduled to take place on December 17, 10:30-11:30 AM (Central). Get ready for a unique LIVE interactive distance learning event with NASA's DLN as we explore the topic of meteorites, their impact on our solar system, and living in an extreme environment! There is a lot to discover...as only NASA can!

Additional information is available at:

<http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/catalog/details/?cid=529>

With this program, NASA continues the Agency's tradition of investing in the Nation's education programs. It is directly tied to the Agency's major education goal of attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines. To compete effectively for the minds, imaginations, and career ambitions of America's young people, NASA is focused on engaging and retaining students in STEM education programs to encourage their pursuit of educational disciplines critical to NASA's future engineering, scientific, and technical missions.

To participate in this program, your school must have videoconferencing capabilities. For more information on technical requirements:

<http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/techenfo/>

If you would like to be placed on the "we're interested" list for this free program, please reply to <mailto:jsc-dislearn@mail.nasa.gov>. Please respond no later than close of business, December 3, 2008. We will contact you soon as a possible participant. We hope you will be able to join us!

When replying, the subject line must be: Antarctic.

Please reply with the following information:

- * Your name:
- * Your email:
- * Your telephone number:
- * Your school's name:
- * Your school's city:
- * Your school's state:
- * Your school's technical point of contact:
- * Technical POC's telephone:
- * Technical POC's email:
- * Student grade levels:
- * Anticipated number of participating students:
- * Date/time of preferred participation:

Thank you,
NASA Digital Learning Network
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
jsc-dislearn@mail.nasa.gov
