

September 2005 - Building a Presence for Science: NSTA/ National Partner E-Blast

Here are your science education resources and announcements for September provided by Building a Presence for Science and our National Partners. These science education highlights have been sent to Key Leaders and Super Key Leaders. Please forward this e-blast on to your Points of Contact; you may add one or two bits of information about local initiatives, of course!

Contents: A Bakers Dozen

Ohio BaP:

1. ORC Features Back-to-School Collections
2. Last call for SECO Proposals to Present
3. Model lesson videos released by ODE
4. OGT Multimedia Tools for Teachers Updated by ODE
5. OGT Resource Web Site for Students Updated by ODE

NSTA BaP:

6. NSTA Looks Forward to Seeing You at the Fall Conventions
7. Adventure is Waiting with Space Science
8. NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Launches Online Marine Life Field Guide
9. Build an Outdoor Classroom at School
10. Apply for the SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards
11. Enter the Teachers' Domain
12. First Lego League unveils 2005 Ocean Odyssey Challenge
13. 7th and 8th Graders to use Engineering to Tackle Challenges

From Ohio BaP State Partner: the Ohio Resource Center

1. ORC Features Back-to-School Collections

<http://www.ohiorc.org>

Now that fall is here and you and your students are settled into a routine, you may be looking for new ideas or for resources to support and supplement your current strategies. ORC has over 750 resources to support Ohio's teachers of science at all levels. We have assembled some of our resources into special collections built around themes of general interest to teachers of science. The Back-to-School collections include Science Safety, Assessment Strategies, Autumn Explorations for Young Scientists, and more.

From The Science Education Council of Ohio (SECO)

2. Last call for SECO Proposals to Present

<http://www.secoonline.org>

The 2006 SECO annual conference will be held in Akron from February 16-18, 2006. You have until September 30, 2005 to get your proposal into the mail. Whether you are presenting or not, the conference offers opportunities for graduate credit through short courses and strands; be sure to add SECO to your IPDP and join us for an outstanding professional development experience.

From Ohio BaP State Partner: the Ohio Department of Education

3. Model lesson videos released

Four multimedia CD-ROMs for teachers were shipped to Ohio high schools, including *Science Teaching Strategies*). These feature videos of Ohio teachers demonstrating model lessons in OGT content areas. Each CD includes a printable discussion guide with a list of the featured lesson strategies for use by teachers in helping students prepare for the OGT. Many thanks to the following districts for providing the teacher talent for these videos: Benjamin Logan, Canal Winchester, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, East Cleveland, Reynoldsburg and South-Western. For additional copies of the original or new CD-ROMs, e-mail ogtcd@measinc.com listing your name, phone number, school, address and how many additional copies of each content area you need.

4. OGT Multimedia Tools for Teachers Updated

http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/Tools_For_Teachers.asp.

The OGT Tools for Teachers has been updated. The materials are organized by subject area – reading, mathematics, writing, science and social studies, and contain a wealth of information about the OGT. All of the standards and benchmarks, multiple-choice and constructed-response items, and annotated constructed-response papers are printable.

5. OGT Resource Web Site for Students Updated

http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT_Website_for_Students.asp.

The updated OGT Web site for students contains short multiple-choice tests in reading, mathematics, science and social studies; a writing practice exercise that is scored by Project Essay Grade Automated Essay Scoring (PEG); sample constructed-response papers in reading, mathematics, science and social studies with annotations, links to standards, and scoring guides; and papers for students to practice scoring.

From the National NSTA BaP office:

6. NSTA Looks Forward to Seeing You at the Fall Conventions

<http://www.nsta.org/conventions>

As the NSTA fall conventions approach, we're looking forward to seeing you in Hartford, Chicago and Nashville! The NSTA Conventions site provides registration and housing information for each convention, as well as information on workshops and professional development certification. The site also includes a personal scheduler for attendees to use as a calendar to organize their time at the conventions.

7. Adventure is Waiting with Space Science

<http://www.scholastic.com/spacescience>

The new Space Science: Adventure Is Waiting education program for grades 3-5 and 6-8 is now available online at <http://www.scholastic.com/spacescience>. Developed in cooperation with NASA and Scholastic, and generously sponsored by Columbia Pictures, this program contains easy-to-use standards-based lessons and reproducibles. At the web site, you can download both the printable lesson plans and sweepstakes entry forms. Students can enter for a chance to win a family trip to Kennedy Space Center in Florida or a Classroom plasma TV, DVD player and science books. Take advantage of the excitement surrounding the upcoming film *Zathura*, based on renowned author/illustrator Chris Van Allsburg's acclaimed children's book, published by Houghton Mifflin, and have your classroom participate in the NASA Digital Learning Network webcast event on November 16 with Chris Van Allsburg and a NASA scientist. For more information, visit <http://nasadln.nmsu.edu/dln>.

8. NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Launches Online Marine Life Field Guide

<http://marinelife.noaa.gov/>

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program has unveiled a new, online resource that highlights the diverse marine life of America's ocean and Great Lakes treasures. The Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries is available online and is part of a continuing NOAA effort to enhance public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the marine environment. This online field guide provides photos, streaming video and important biological information for over 100 marine species from each of the national marine sanctuaries in the United States, ranging from spiny lobster to killer whales and white-tipped reef sharks to sea turtles. This is a fantastic resource for formal and informal educators, students of all ages, zoos and aquarias, science centers, and natural history museums.

9. Build an Outdoor Classroom at School

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

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program to provide K-12 schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. In some cases, grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school. Deadlines vary.

10. Apply for the SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards

<http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm>

K-12 educators and community groups are invited to apply for the SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Award. Since 1993, the awards have recognized the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment. The prize for eight groups is \$10,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to Orlando SeaWorld for an awards event, as well as other prizes. From those eight teams, one educator/leader will be selected to win \$5,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to the 2006 NSTA Annual National Convention in Anaheim. The deadline is November 30, 2005.

11. Enter the Teachers' Domain

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

Teachers' Domain is a multimedia digital library that offers high-quality, standards-based multimedia from NOVA, American Experience, and other public television productions and partners, video and interactive media, lesson plans, and background articles for each resource. Current content includes information on predicting the path and intensity of hurricanes, as well as an informational quiz and additional resources. Registration is free, as is all content on the site. Teachers' Domain is produced by WGBH Boston.

12. First Lego League unveils 2005 Ocean Odyssey Challenge

<http://www.usfirst.org>

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), has launched its FIRST LEGO League season with the unveiling of the 2005 Ocean Odyssey Challenge. This year's challenge calls for teams of 9 to 14 year-old children to research and present robotics technology

solutions to help solve mounting problems in the world's oceans. FIRST collaborated with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute to help shape a theme and challenge missions that reflect true-to-life issues involved in the study and protection of the health, biodiversity, and productivity of the world's oceans. These include preventing pollution, responsible fishing, releasing a dolphin, and locating sunken treasure.

During the FIRST LEGO League season, FIRST will continue to pilot Junior FIRST LEGO League. Now in its second year, Junior FIRST LEGO League is geared to teams of 6 to 9 year-olds, introducing them to the wonders of science and technology with a mini-challenge based on the FIRST LEGO League annual challenge project.

13. 7th and 8th Graders to use Engineering to Tackle Challenges

<http://www.futurecity.org>

As common as crabgrass but not nearly so easy to eradicate, small, abandoned strip malls are a vexing social problem for engineers and city planners across the country. For tens of thousands of middle school students, however, it's just another challenge they have to conquer in the 2006 National Engineers Week Future City Competition. Students first create their cities on computers using SimCity 3000 software (donated to each school by Electronic Arts), build three-dimensional scale models of the city, write an essay and an abstract, and present their ideas in regional competitions. In Ohio the competition is held in the Columbus area in January each year. First place winners from each regional competition participate in the national finals in Washington, DC, February 20-22, 2006 during National Engineers Week.