

**Volume 6, No. 5**

**March 12, 2008 - Building a Presence for Science: Ohio eBlast**

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**1. From the Ohio Resource Center: Follow a link to Thinkfinity**

<http://www.ohiorc.org> (click the graphic/link at the bottom of the navigation column)

The newly redesigned Thinkfinity site (<http://www.thinkfinity.org/>) provides vast resources that are now at the fingertips of ORC users. Thinkfinity.org has a direct link from the ORC main page and includes resources from many highly respected organizations.

- \* ArtsEdge, the Kennedy Center
- \* EconEdLink, National Council on Economic Education
- \* EdSitement, National Endowment for the Humanities
- \* Illuminations, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- \* Read Write Think, International Reading Association in partnership with NCTE
- \* Science NetLinks, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- \* National Geographic Xpeditions
- \* Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Each of these partner organizations offers high quality lesson plans and teaching materials through their own websites and through Thinkfinity.

ORC will continue to review and recommend the web materials offered through Thinkfinity partners as well as resources from other developers throughout the world. ORC review boards will continue to designate online instructional resources as best or promising practices as it has done since 2001 by using its unique rubric. ORC content specialists will continue to correlate those resources to Ohio's standards.

As a state education partner, ORC will be announcing new and exciting opportunities for training in both ORC and Thinkfinity in the days and months to come, along with the development of other products based upon the Thinkfinity collection of online materials.

The placement of the Thinkfinity.org link on the ORC main web page is just the beginning of a whole new series of services that ORC users can expect to see in the coming months.

## **2. K-20: Will you be in Boston for the NSTA National Conference on Science Education?**

If so, please join us first for the District X Reception, sponsored by VWR Education:

Thursday, March 27, 2008 3:30-5:00 PM

Grand Salon D, Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

RSVP this event ([Lightbody.1@osu.edu](mailto:Lightbody.1@osu.edu))

And then move across the street for the Building a Presence for Science Reception, sponsored by Texas Instruments:

Thursday, March 27, 2008 5:00-7:00 PM

Boston – Seaport World Trade Center – Cityview I Room

RSVP this event (<http://bap.nsta.org> (scroll down to the announcement of the event))

## **3. K-12: Reminder: The Spring 2008 EECO Conference is approaching! Don't miss it!**

<http://www.eeco-online.org/conferences/Announcement.htm>

The EECO (Environmental Education Council of Ohio) conference will be held April 24-27, 2008 at Mohican Resort and Conference Center, Loudonville, OH. The conference theme is "Roots—Bringing People Back to Nature." Conference strands are Green Building, Ohio's Natural and Cultural History, and Outdoor Education.

## **4. K-12: National Environmental Week is April 13 – 19, 2008**

<http://www.EEWeek.org>

As the nation's largest environmental education event National EE Week, made possible by Canon, promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators of all subjects in an inspired week of environmental learning and service before Earth Day. As partners in EE Week, educators have access to:

\*Standards-based environmental education lessons and activities;

\*Monthly electronic newsletters that highlight the latest EE curricula, professional development, and funding opportunities;

and

\*Opportunities for online communication and knowledge-sharing with educators from across the country.

If you work with students in a school, nature center, zoo, museum, aquarium, or other educational setting, you can join EE Week's efforts and gain national recognition for your work.

Questions? Email [EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) or call (202) 261-6484

**5. K-12: Earth Day is April 22, 2008: What are your plans to bring this to school?**

<http://ww2.earthday.net/~earthday/>

Earth Day 2008: A Call for Climate is expected to be the biggest yet! From Tokyo to Togo, to the flagship event on the National Mall in Washington, DC and 7 other U.S. cities, concerned educators and others will be galvanizing millions of people around the world behind a Call for Climate, the global warming action theme. Hundreds of events are popping up all over the globe and April 22 should be a most memorable Earth Day. Please join the effort, and get involved by holding Earth Day events at your school, and by calling your legislators, congressmen and women, and senators to urge them to take significant and equitable action on climate change.

U.S. events, produced by Green Apple Festivals, will include A-list musicians and actors, environmental and community leaders, and dozens of exhibits. These special events are the place to be on April 20, right before Earth Day. The Call for Climate will go out to the U.S. Congress on Earth Day, April 22; organizers hope to generate 1-million phone calls to lawmakers!

Mark your calendar and check the web site for frequent updates!

**6. K-12: U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Initiative**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship>

Secretary Spellings has announced the creation of Teaching Ambassador Fellowship positions for currently practicing, K-12 public school teachers at the U.S. Department of Education for the 2008-2009 school year. These positions will offer highly motivated, innovative teachers the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to the national dialogue on public education.

The Fellowship includes two kinds of opportunities for teachers across the U.S:

- 1) Up to 20 Classroom Fellows will remain at their schools under their regular teaching contracts and will be paid to participate in additional Department discussions and projects throughout the school year on a part-time basis.
- 2) Up to five Washington Fellows will be chosen to become full-time, paid federal employees in Washington, D.C. for the school year, working on education programs and participating in policy discussions.

Teaching Ambassador Fellows will be selected based upon their record of leadership, impact on student achievement, and potential for contribution to the field. Highly qualified K-12 public school teachers who have spent at least three years in the classroom are eligible to apply.

Teachers must be currently practicing in and employed by a public school district to be eligible. To ensure collaboration at the school and district levels, teacher applicants must have the full support of their school principals.

Applications are due by April 7, 2008. Teaching Ambassador Fellows will be named by early summer for the 2008-2009 school year.

### **7. K-12: Aggregates Association Invites Teachers and Educators to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Minerals Education Conference**

June 15-18, 2008

<http://www.nationalmineralseducation.org>

The Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association (OAIMA) is pleased to host the 17th Annual National Minerals Education Conference in Columbus, OH, June 15-18, 2008. This conference features a wealth of information-packed educational sessions led by an impressive list of faculty and industry experts. The NMEC provides a unique opportunity for educators and industry professionals to share experiences, generate new ideas, and provide innovative approaches to minerals and resource education. The conference will include three days of meetings, discussions, field trips and activities designed to provide practical, real world educational opportunities and materials highlighting the importance of the mineral extraction industry in Ohio and the Midwest. Three exciting and informative field trips will be offered. Each trip will provide a rare “behind-the-scenes” look at the materials, operations and facilities that manufacture the raw materials and final products that are critical to the quality of life we enjoy. In addition, attendees will visit extraordinary and innovative wildlife, recreation and other sustainable post-mining areas that will be enjoyed for generations to come. Teacher sponsorship opportunities are also available for those teachers or educational professionals requiring financial assistance.

For more information please visit our website or call 1-800 OHROCKS (647-6257).

With over 200 member companies, OAIMA producers account for nearly 150 million tons of limestone, sand and gravel aggregates, salt, clay and other minerals mined in Ohio each year. Aggregates and industrial minerals mined in Ohio include: limestone and sand and gravel for roads, bridges, asphalt and concrete; clay and shale for brick and block; gypsum for wallboards; industrial sand for drinking water and wastewater treatment; and salt for melting ice in the winter and softening our water at home. Agricultural lime, also from mining, allows farmers to enhance their soils, increase production, and decrease the dependence on fertilizers and pesticides, leading to a cleaner environment.

Each Ohio resident requires over 11 tons (about a dump truck load) per year of minerals mined locally in Ohio. Nearly one-half of all aggregates are paid for with tax dollars.

“If it can’t be grown, it has to be mined!”

Contact: Patrick A. Jacomet, Executive Director  
Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association  
Email: [patj@oaima.org](mailto:patj@oaima.org) Website: [www.oaima.org](http://www.oaima.org)

### **8. K-12: The Learning First Alliance has launched**

<http://www.PublicSchoolInsights.org>

This is a new website that promotes a fresh, 21st-century vision for public schools, with real examples of what is working in all kinds of public schools and districts. On the site, you can learn about imaginative strategies public schools are pursuing to help students succeed. You can also hear insights from extraordinary people on public education's front lines, listen to exclusive interviews with leading thinkers, and find tools to help you tell stories about success in your own public school or district.

The Learning First Alliance is a permanent non-profit partnership of 18 major national education associations that collectively represent over 10 million dedicated teachers, parents, principals, superintendents, teacher educators, school board members, school counselors, and other school and district staff.

Please feel free to contact Claus von Zastrow (Executive Director) at 202 296-5220 or [vonzastrowc@learningfirst.org](mailto:vonzastrowc@learningfirst.org) with any questions or comments about the Learning First Alliance or this new site.

### **9. K-12: 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement: Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)**

<http://www.magnet.fsu.edu/education/ret/>

Funded by the National Science Foundation, this six-week summer residential program for U.S. citizens gives K-12 teachers from across the country the chance to participate in real-world science and cutting-edge magnetic field research. Through weekly seminars, discussion groups, professional development and technology workshops, teachers develop strategies and resources to translate the experience into material for their classrooms. Each teacher accepted by the program receives a stipend, classroom materials and, if necessary, travel support and housing. Teachers are expected to return to their jobs as leaders in service education, implementing science research in their classrooms.

The application deadline is March 14, 2008.

### **10. PK-6: Issue One of Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears: A Sense of Place**

<http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/>

We're pleased to announce that our first issue of the Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears cyberzine is ready to view! This online magazine is written for elementary teachers to help develop their content knowledge of the polar regions and use best practices in integrating science and literacy instruction.

Our first issue is called "A Sense of Place" and provides an introduction to the geographic location and characteristics of the Arctic and Antarctica. Read about a scientist who helped produce some of the most accurate images of Antarctica, learn about the research-based strategy of identifying similarities and differences, and much more. Visit the cyberzine home page and select A Sense of Place - Issue One, March 2008 to begin exploring.

Each month's issue will be organized around a theme that reflects common science topics in the elementary curriculum. Coming next in April is "Learning From the Past," an issue that

examines the fossils, dinosaurs, and archaeological artifacts of the polar regions. But don't worry - you'll still be able to access all content from the previous issue!

As with any new undertaking, we'd appreciate feedback and comments. Post a comment to the blog, or use the contact information found in the magazine to tell us what you think.

Enjoy Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears, and share the site with your students and colleagues!

### **11. Gr 6-12: FREE Climate Change Curriculum**

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

Facing the Future is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and motivating today's students to be responsible stewards of tomorrow's world. The organization develops and delivers standards-based hands-on lessons, student textbooks, curriculum units and professional development opportunities for educators that promote critical thinking on global issues, sustainability and positive solutions. Facing the Future curriculum is in use in all 50 U.S. states and over 50 countries by teachers and students in grades K-12, in undergraduate and graduate classes, and across multiple subject areas.

Facing the Future recently announced the release of Climate Change: Connections and Solutions. These 2-week curriculum units, one for middle and one for high school, encourage students to think critically about climate change and to collaborate to devise solutions. Students learn about climate change within a systems framework, examining interconnections among environmental, social, and economic issues.

Climate Change: Connections and Solutions are interdisciplinary curriculum units. Lessons are aligned with national science and social studies standards and may be used in other classes as well. The units include:

- 9 hands-on activities
- 5 student readings
- Overview of daily activities
- Homework assignments
- Reproducible handouts
- Assessments

Educators and students throughout the U.S. reviewed and tested the lessons and experts from the University of Washington, the Hewlett-Packard Company, and the World Wildlife Fund reviewed the student readings. Thanks to generous funding from Hewlett-Packard Company, this curriculum valued at \$24.95 is available for FREE.

For questions or comments, contact: Kim Rakow Bernier at [kim@facingthefuture.org](mailto:kim@facingthefuture.org).

### **12. Gr 7-12: State Science Day**

May 10, 2008

Hosted by The Ohio State University

<http://www.ohiosci.org/dsd1.htm>

Here are important links for State Science Day that you may want to bookmark. Please contact Lynn Elfner (eMail Address - [oas@iwaynet.net](mailto:oas@iwaynet.net)) if any of the links don't work or if you have questions.

Title Sponsors:

AEP Ohio

Ohio Environmental Education Fund

The Ohio Academy of Science

Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane Inc.

<http://www.ohiosci.org/ssd.htm>

Flow Chart for Registration:

<http://ohiosci.org/ssdflowchart2008.htm>

Registration Booklet:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/SSDReg2008.pdf>

Roster of \$1,904,135 Scholarships and Awards:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/SSDSpAwdBooklet2008.pdf>

Sign up to Judge:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/ssdjudge.htm>

General Volunteer Signup:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/ssdvolunteer.htm>

### **13. Gr 9-12: Attend a one-week materials science technology workshop – FREE!**

<http://www.asmfoundation.org/portal/site/ASM/Foundation/TeachersCamp/>

Who: Science / Technology / Art / Math High School Teachers

What: A one-week workshop this summer – FREE!

When/Where: ~20 ASM Materials Camp locations throughout the U.S. and in Canada.

Why: To “excite young people” in science and math. Learn how to use low cost/no cost simple labs and experiments (using everyday materials) that can be integrated into your existing lesson plans to actively engage students!

Meals: Snacks (morning and afternoon) and lunches will be provided.

Graduate Credits: Two (2) semester credits through the University of Washington (Seattle) available. (Registration fee is less than \$200)

Faculty: Primary faculty are two experienced high school “Master Teachers” who have taught materials science courses and helped develop this innovative approach to hands-on learning of applied science principles.

To apply: Apply online at [www.asmfoundation.org](http://www.asmfoundation.org); or contact: Jeane Deatherage, Administrator of Foundation Programs at [jeane.deatherage@asminternational.org](mailto:jeane.deatherage@asminternational.org), 440/338-5151, ext. 5533.

Ohio locations are:

+ Case Western Reserve University – June 16-20, 2008

- + University of Dayton – June 23-27, 2008
- + Youngstown State University – July 14-18, 2008
- + The Ohio State University – July 28-August 1, 2008 (this is a 2nd-year camp)
- + University of Akron – August 4-8, 2008
- + University of Cincinnati – August 4-8, 2008

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### **Calendar: Upcoming Events/Opportunities/Deadlines**

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#### **Upcoming Events/Opportunities/Deadlines**

March 14, 2008: 24<sup>th</sup> Women in Science Day, at the Ohio State University, Columbus  
[diaz-sprague.1@osu.edu](mailto:diaz-sprague.1@osu.edu)

March 14, 2008: Deadline for entries to the new Earth Heroes contest  
<http://www.earth-heroes.org>

March 14, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Florida State summer research programs  
<http://www.ret.magnet.fsu.edu/education/ret/> (Magnet Lab)  
<http://bio.fsu.edu/osta/RET> (Coastal Marine Lab)

March 15, 2008: Ohio Amphibian Research and Conservation Conference  
<http://www.ohioamphibians.com/meeting/>

March 17, 2008: Deadline for the 3rd Annual DNA Day Essay Contest  
[http://genednet.org/pages/k12\\_dnaday08.shtml](http://genednet.org/pages/k12_dnaday08.shtml)

March 26, 2008: NSELA Professional Development Institute in Boston, MA  
<http://www.nsela.org>

March 27-30, 2008: NSTA National Conference in Boston, MA  
<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/>

March 27, 2008 3:30-5:00 pm: NSTA District X Reception sponsored by VWR Education  
 Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, Pacific D

March 27, 2008 5:00-7:00 pm: Building a Presence for Science Reception, sponsored by TI  
 Seaport World Trade Center – Cityview I Room

April 4, 2008: Deadline for entries for the 2008 Thacher Scholars Award  
<http://www.strategies.org/ThacherScholars>

April 7, 2008: Deadline for the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Initiative  
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship>

April 13 – 19, 2008: National Environmental Week

<http://www.EEWeek.org>

April 15, 2008: Early bird deadline to register for Powerful Professional Learning in Science

<http://www.nsela.org/calendar/calendar.html#reg#reg>

April 22, 2008: Earth Day 2008

<http://ww2.earthday.net/~earthday/>

April 24 - 27, 2008: EECO Conference at Mohican State Park

<http://www.eeco-online.org>

May 1, 2008: Deadline to apply for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> <Teaching in Ohio> <Awards and Recognition> <PAEMST>

May 10, 2008: State Science Day

<http://www.ohiosci.org/dsd1.htm>

July 1, 2008: Applications for the next group of Astronauts are due

<http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/recruit.html>

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