



Science News



Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES:

Core Curriculum Showcase

March 25th and March 26th, 2008

The 3rd Annual Celebration of Teaching & Learning

March 7-8, 2008

K-12 Professional Development Conference

The Celebration of Teaching and Learning has quickly become the New York metro area's premier professional development event. In the last two years, over 12,000 educator attendees have:

- * taken part in more than 140 workshops
- * learned from more than 80 education leaders
- * roamed the exciting hall with 300 popular exhibits
- * heard nationally renowned speakers ranging from Tom Brokaw to Al Gore

Registration fills up quickly, so mark your calendar today!

Go to www.thirteencelebration.org now and sign up for Celebration 2008 email updates.

You can also visit www.thirteencelebration.org for 2007 video highlights featuring Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, pediatrician Dr. Mel Levine, journalist Tim Russert, and more.



ESSA- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 2007

Elementary School Science Association Saturday, November 17th, 2007 is the 29th Annual "Saturday Science" Conference at Francis Lewis High School 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m. To register for the conference contact Mary Bomba at mbomba2@schools.nyc.gov for an application.

The Department of Mathematics and Science

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Newsletters are now on the Science Web Site

"Science News"- The science newsletters are now posted on the NYC Science Department website. Go to Educator's Resources and you will find the link to all past issues of the newsletters.

If anyone is interested in receiving the newsletter or any other updates and would like to be placed on the science distribution list, please have them e-mail Roy Harris at RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov

Workshop Opportunities

Girls' Science Day (Grades 6-8) at Columbia University

Girls' Science Day is a day of hands-on experiments for middle school girls led by graduate students of Columbia University. This event will be held at Columbia University on Saturday, November 17, 2007 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups of 10-12 middle school girls will rotate through experiment stations designed and run by graduate students and post-docs from Columbia University. In addition there will be two demonstration shows. The girls are provided with lunch and the event is completely free. For more information please visit: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/wisc/> or contact Miriam Inbar at girlsscience@ gmail.com. If you need further assistance, please contact Sheldon Young at Syoun14@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-5750.

Cornell University's

Cornell Science Sampler Series (CSSS)

Cornell University in the City of New York has created a free workshop for middle school science teachers. The workshop will take place at the Cornell Weill Medical Center, located at: 1300 York Avenue, New York, NY, on November 3, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Workshop sessions will include electromagnets, buoyancy and microscopic measurement. Breakfast, lunch and materials will be provided. Please note that seating accommodation is limited to 60 seats. For more information and application please visit www.ccmr.cornell.edu/education/teachers/csss.html. If you need further assistance, please contact Sheldon Young at Syoun14@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-5750.

Hydrogen Education - Grades 5-8 and 9-12

Free, one-day workshops are being offered to middle and high school science and technology educators to introduce hydrogen as an important fuel carrier of the future, both for distributed generation and transportation applications. Attendees will receive student and teacher guides, electrolysis equipment, a model fuel-cell car kit, and other materials to simulate chemical modeling. Meals will be provided and substitute reimbursement is available, if necessary. The NYC middle school workshop will be on Saturday, January 12, 2008 (8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) at the KeySpan Corporation, One MetroTech Center, Room 2-06, Brooklyn, NY 11201. The NYC high school workshop will be on Friday, November 30, 2007 (8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) at the New York Aquarium, Surf Avenue & West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11224.

Energy Smart Students Program

The [Energy Smart Students Program](#) is a NYS energy-efficiency education program for K-12 classroom teachers sponsored by the NYSERDA and the **New York Energy SmartSM Program**. The [Energy Smart Students Program](#) will provide curriculum materials and training for this statewide program. Teachers will be given classroom materials at the workshops. Teachers who are interested in attending must preregistration online. Complete information is available at: <http://www.getenergysmart.org/schools/workshops/workshops.aspx>.

Updates on Assessments in Science

Here is an update of the Science Assessments for the school year 2007-2008:

As stated in the Principals' Weekly on October 2, 2007 The Office of Accountability has announced "the science tests will not be administered to all students in grades 3 and 6 this school year as originally stated in the New York City assessment calendar."



The DOE will field test science end-of-year tests this spring in a sample of schools with grades 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Field testing is necessary in order to produce valid assessments that are aligned with state standards and can link past and future tests. Results from the science field test will be used to generate reliable and valid assessments that will be administered to all students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 in the 2008-09 school year.

Students in grades 4 and 8 will continue to take the state science tests this spring. The science performance section of the test in grades 4 and 8 should be administered between April 11th and May 11th. The New York State Science Written section for Grades 4 and 8 is on April 30th.

Training for the revised Part D section of the Earth Science Regents examination was conducted by the New York State Education Department on October 16 – 17, 2007. This revision will be in effect beginning with the June 2008 exam. Each of the SSO's sent turn-key trainers to one of these sessions. Please contact your SSO for further information on the turn-key training that will be given by your School Support Organization. For further information or clarification, please contact Denise McNamara dmcnama@schools.nyc.gov

Planning Guides/Pacing Calendars

The Planning Guide/Pacing Calendar is available for Grades 3, 4 and 6. The planning guides for grades K, 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 will not be posted during school year 2007-2008. Only Unit 1 is posted.

Unit 2 will be posted on the Science DOE intranet site in time for Unit 2 to begin. The Planning Guide can only be accessed from a DOE computer at your school that has intranet. You cannot access this document from a home computer. We are in the process of finding other ways for you to access these documents. We will let you know shortly.



Here is an approximate timeline for when schools should begin each Unit of Study for Grades 3, 4 and 6:

Unit 1- Begins the first week of school

Unit 2 – Begins around November 15th

Unit 3 – Begins around January 29th

Unit 4 – Begins around April 10th

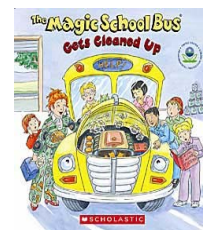
To give you an idea of how we arrived at the approximate time that should be spent on every unit of study in grades 3, 4 and 6 we looked at the following: There are about 180 school days in the year. Therefore, each unit of study can have up to approximately 45 days. When you multiply 45 by the 4 units of study you get 180. In our planning guides we recommend about 36 days of instruction per unit, which gives enough time for holidays, school trips, assessments and other days when science may not be taught in the schools.

As the school year progresses, we will be monitoring (through focus groups and your e-mails) the Planning Guides. Please remember that this is our first year of implementation and we do need your feedback.



Free Magic School Bus Books from EPA

Clean School Bus USA program has partnered with Scholastic to write, illustrate, and publish a new book in the popular “Magic School Bus” children’s series. called “The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up”.



This special edition book is intended to be used by libraries, schools, state and local air programs, non-profit education and outreach campaigns, and for other targeted opportunities to increase awareness of the importance of reducing diesel emissions.

Quantities are limited due to the popularity of the book. Individuals, schools, and libraries may order up to 20 copies.

These books are available at no charge from the EPA. They are not for sale. They are best suited for Grades K through 4. Books must be ordered directly from the EPA publications clearinghouse.

Here is the website for ordering:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/msb-book.htm>

Toshiba Grant Opportunities

Toshiba supports an annual science competition with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) called ExploraVision. Now in its 16th year, ExploraVision encourages K-12 students of all interest, skill and ability levels to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. All inventions and innovations result from creative thinking and problem solving.

There are no fees for entry, although it’s been our observation that both teachers and students invest a great deal of time to become regional or national winners (where the student prize money kicks in). All entrants receive recognition of their participation and the competition is designed so that even those who do not create winning entries come away with new skills as they pass through the application process.

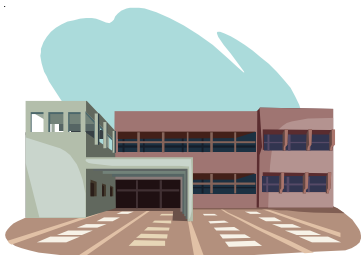
<http://www.exploravision.org/>

In 1990, Toshiba established the Toshiba America Foundation which makes grants to K-12 science and math teachers for projects they design for their own classroom. Info and deadlines can be found at www.taf.toshiba.com.

High School News

Earth Science Regents – Revised Part D Training

Facilitator training for the revised Part D section of the Earth Science Regents was held at the Museum of Natural History on October 16th and October 17th, 2007.



This training was given by the New York State Education Department to NYC facilitators from each of the School Support Organizations. These facilitators will turn-key the training to all of the schools that offer the Earth Science Regents in their Support Organizations. For further information on the plans for these training sessions, please contact your School Support Organization representative.

Creative Ideas in Biomedical Science Essay Contest & Student Conference

The Mount Sinai Center for Excellence in Youth Education is sponsoring an essay contest for students in grades 7 – 12. The focus of the essay should be in the following areas: Basic Science, Clinical Approaches, Prevention – Medicine, Policy, Environmental Health, Global Health, etc. Students must work in pairs (dyads) on this submission. **Deadline: November 9th, 2007** Winners will be invited to a Young Scientist Day Student Conference on November 20, 2007. For further information and the application, please contact Dr. Lloyd Sherman at (212) 241-7655 lloyd.sherman@mssm.edu or Denise McNamara at (212) 374-0870 dmcnama@schools.nyc.gov

Science Supervisors' Association

All High School Science Supervisors are invited to join the Science Supervisors' Association. Please contact Alan Ascher (alanascher@aol.com) for further information. His e-mail address was not listed in last month's newsletter.

New York City Science and Engineering Fair (NYCSEF) – February 2 – 3, 2008 (reminder from last month)

The New York City Department of Education Science and Engineering Fair will be hosted this year by the City University of New York (CUNY). The first round of the Fair will take place at City College during the weekend of February 2-3, 2008 with judging occurring on February 3, 2008. Application deadline is Friday, November 30, 2007 with the submission of the completed research paper on Friday, January 11, 2008. The application, rules and regulations and other pertinent information can be found at:

<http://collegenow.cuny.edu/sciencefair> For any further information or to answer any questions, please contact Denise McNamara at dmcnama@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-0780 or Jeanette Kim at sciencefair@listserv.cuny.edu.

High School Scope and Sequence

The High School Scope and Sequence is set to be up and running on the Department of Science website. Check for the link under Educators Resources.

The New York State Biology & Chemistry Mentors Network had their annual four-day Conference in Albany, NY from October 18 through 21, 2007. Training in POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) strategies and PBL (Problem Based Learning) strategies was the focus of the work that was done.

Research Program Opportunities for Middle and High School Teachers

Columbia University's Summer Research Program for Science Teachers will award at least 10 research fellowships to middle and high school science teachers. Successful applicants will become part of a research laboratory team for 8 weeks in each of 2 consecutive summers under the supervision of university faculty mentors. Program participants will receive a stipend of \$6,000 each summer, \$2,000 for classroom/laboratory supplies over the course of 2 years and travel to professional conferences. The application deadline is January 31, 2008. The application for the 2008 program is available on the Summer Research Program's Web site: <http://www.ScienceTeacherProgram.org>. Please give this information to any science teachers you think would be interested. For more information, contact Jay Dubner at (212) 305-6899 or jd109@columbia.edu.

NYC FOSS Website Launched

FOSS officially launched their new NYC website last month. The website is www.fossweb.com/nyc. If your school is using the FOSS Kit or blend program, you should check out the resources. This website supports NYC teachers, parents and students in grades 3, 4, and 6 using kit-based science during the 2007-08 school year. This site will be growing and changing over the year to provide more science resources for educators and families. There are many videos on the site that may assist you in setting up your investigations.

FOSS also has set up an e-mail for any questions that pertain directly to the FOSS or DSM kits. The e-mail is fossnyc@berkeley.edu. Please use this e-mail only for specific questions regarding the FOSS or DSM program.

Important Websites

NYC Department of Science Website:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/Science>

NYC FOSS Website

www.fossweb.com/nyc

If you have any questions for FOSS e-mail:

fossnyc@berkeley.edu

NYC Harcourt Website:

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/science/index_nyc.html

Glencoe Website:

http://www.glencoe.com/sites/new_york/teacher/science/index.html



Core Curriculum Materials

The number to call for any science core curriculum delivery questions is **718-935-3334**. Many schools have inquired about ordering additional materials for this year's 3rd, 4th and 6th grade implementation. If you want to purchase these materials you can go to FAMIS to place your order. The core curriculum science materials for the rest of the grades will be in FAMIS later on in the year.

A reminder about science libraries: All schools that participated in the core curriculum ordering will be receiving **science libraries** in late November. You may be missing some titles that are on backorder, but you will receive them at a later date. These libraries are for 3rd, 4th and 6th grade students. The trade books that have been chosen are for all four units of study in each of the grades. The books will be delivered in Scholastic boxes, but the books are from a variety of different companies.

NYC Harcourt Website Update

Harcourt School Publishers is pleased to announce some enhancements to the HSP Science New York City site. Go to:

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/science/index_nyc.html

or to <http://www.hpscience.com/> and click on New York City in the drop down menu. Once there you will see several new resources including:

*Access to E-Books and E-Planners (or how to register if you have not already)

*Online Resources Organized to the New York City Table of Contents

*Under the Teacher Link: "Component and Information Updates" including whom to contact for additional resources and inventory lists, "Contact Harcourt for Questions About Harcourt Science", and *SCILINKS*. We encourage you to make use of these e-resources for teachers and students.

Additional Websites To Check Out

Roger Tory Peterson Institute's Electronic Naturalist science education website:

www.enaturalist.org

Check out this website for free science interactives for Elementary Science class

<http://www.learningscience.org/index.htm>

Elementary and Middle School Focus Groups

Thank you for your response in joining the elementary and middle school focus groups. The teachers who were interested have been notified and we will have our first meeting this month. We will keep of all you informed about



the progress of the focus meetings. The groups will be meeting once a month and breaking into text, blend and kit groups. We will be focusing on the implementation of the materials, planning guides and many other issues the participants bring to the table.

Last Year's Science and Social Studies Test Results

As stated in the Principals' Weekly on October 16, 2007, the state has released the results of the 2006-07 science and social studies tests. Please notify parents of students who were in 4th, 5th, or 8th grade last year of their results on last year's science and social studies tests. It is the responsibility of the student's current school to distribute this information to parents. Schools should run the RMSR report in ATS to receive a roster of students in their school this year who took these tests last school year.

For the grades 4 and 8 science test, the raw score, conversion score, and performance level are posted on ATS. For an explanation of the conversion scores for both tests, visit <http://emsc32.nysed.gov/osa/concht/ei-06>.

Students scoring below 65 (levels 1 and 2) on the grade 4 or grade 8 science test must be provided with academic intervention services according to section 100.2(ee)(2)(i) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

The Care of Animals in The Classroom

Many schools have live organisms that are part of the materials you received in the Core Curriculum. We will shortly get information regarding the care and maintenance of live organisms in the classroom on our website. In the meantime, the FOSS program has endorsed the National Science Teachers Association for responsible use of animals in the classroom as they apply to elementary and middle school classrooms. You can find this information at the following link on the National FOSS website:



<http://lhsfoss.org/fossweb/teachers/materials/plantanimal/ethics.html>

This may assist you in some decisions your school should make when the unit of study has ended.



Science Professional Development

The Department of Science has launched a series of Science Core Curriculum Professional Development courses during Fall of 2007. We are very pleased with the registration. Unfortunately, we had to limit the number of participants due to overwhelming sign-ups. These courses are specifically for grade 3,4 and 6 teachers who have not participated in any of the previous trainings for the new science curriculum. We are in the process of developing the same series for Units 3 and 4 and we are adding on additional rooms and sites in order to accommodate all the teachers who will be signed up for this series.

We have also had an overwhelming response for science core curriculum training for Unit 2 during Election Day, November 6th.

You can also find other courses we are offering in the Winter Catalog which will be released very shortly. These courses will have a fee because they are not part of the science core curriculum initiative, but they are extremely worthwhile and will help enlighten your science knowledge.

The courses that will be offered are:

1) **Training for 4th and 8th Grade State Science Test—Performance and Written**
(Target Audience: Grade 4 and Grade 8 Science Cluster Teachers, Classroom Teachers and Supervisors)

This course will be offered on Monday January 14, 2008 and Monday, January 28, 2008. It will be a 2-day series.

2) **Science Notebooking**
(Target Audience: K-8 Science Cluster Teachers, Science Teachers and Classroom Teachers)

This course will be offered on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

3) **Science Journals**
(Target Audience: K-8 Science Cluster Teachers, Science Teachers and Classroom Teachers)

This course will be offered on Friday, January 18th, 2008.

You can sign up for the courses as soon as the catalog comes out. We will inform you via-email or in the next newsletter more about signing up for these workshops.

We are also working on many professional development Series for your needs. Please e-mail Roy Harris at RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov if you have any suggestions for workshops that can help you or your school's science needs.

The Professional Development Website is: <http://pdnycoit.org> This is for any PD that is on Protraxx.