

Science News



Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES:



**The 3rd Annual Celebration of Teaching & Learning
March 7-8, 2008**

**Core Curriculum Showcase
March 25 and March 26, 2008**

**NSTA Science Convention
Boston, MA.
March 26 - 30 , 2008**

**Planning Guide/Pacing Calendar
Unit 3 Begins around January 29
Unit 4 Begins Around April 10**

**31st Annual SCONYC Conference
Saturday, April 12, 2008
Stuyvesant High School**



Planning Guide Update

The Planning guides are on our website! Use the following link on a DOE intranet computer to access them. Units 3 and 4 are not posted yet. Check for updates.

<http://www.nycboe.net/AdminOrg/Offices/TeachingLearning/science.aspx>

The Department of Mathematics and Science

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Newsletters and Professional Development Updates are now on the Science Web Site

“Science News”- The science newsletters are now posted on the NYC Science Department website. Go to Educators Resources and you will find the link to all past issues of the newsletters as well as professional development updates.

If you would like to be placed on the science distribution list, please e-mail Roy Harris at RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Program

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Program is calling young scientists to enter its 2008 challenge. Now in its 16th season, ExploraVision will award up to \$240,000 in Savings Bonds this year, along with a host of other prizes, to student team members for the most innovative ideas which project technology 20 years into the future. The program is open to all K-12 public, private, and home-school students of all ability and skill levels who enter under the direction of their teacher. Many teachers now include it as part of their overall science curriculum, citing ExploraVision's propensity toward enhancing student learning and interest in science and cross-curricular activities. Entries are being accepted now through January 29, 2008. Visit

<http://www.exploravision.org/bap> to download your Awards entry kit and competition rules and gain access to participation tips, sample projects, and other resources! Or contact NSTA for information and an application at 1-(800)-EXPLOR-9 or exploravision@nsta.org.

ExploraVision can be the beginning of a lifelong adventure in science. Engage your students in ExploraVision now!

Apply Now for a Toyota Tapestry Grant

"Winning the Toyota TAPESTRY grant was the highlight of my professional life," said a recipient of the award. The new Toyota TAPESTRY 2008 online application is now available! For 2008 Toyota will be awarding 75-82 grants totaling \$550,000 to teachers who would like to implement an innovative science project in physical science, environmental science or integrating literacy and science. The program is open to middle and high school science teachers and elementary teachers who teach some science in the classroom. Please visit <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry> for complete details on the grant program and the link so you may begin your proposal. Remember that all 50 large grant awardees receive an all-expenses paid trip to the 2008 NSTA National Conference on Science Education in Boston! The deadline for applications is January 29, 2008.

Chase Multimedia in the Classroom Awards Competition

Thirteen/WNET and WLIW21
Teaching & Learning Celebration
Deadline for Submission: January 11th, 2008

The Multimedia in the Classroom award, sponsored by Chase, celebrates the achievements of teachers and students who are transforming learning environments through technology. Projects should be a collaboration between teachers and students, focusing on improving learning through creative uses of technology in the K-12 curriculum in science and global awareness. The competition is open to K-12 teachers and students in public and non-public schools in the tri-state area. The top 10 schools will each receive a cash prize of \$1,000, a Chase award trophy, full free access admission to the Teaching & Learning Celebration, and free Teaching & Learning Celebration tee shirts.

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 11th, 2008 to be eligible.

Full details and the entry form will be available online at <http://www.thirteencelebration.org> or <http://www.wliwcelebration.org>.

Environmental Education Grants Program

The solicitation notice for the EPA's 2008 Environmental Education Grants Program is now available.

All applications must be postmarked by or transmitted to the EPA electronically by December 20, 2007. For further details, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/>

Regents Preparation:

Complete Regents examinations that have been previously administered can be found at:

<http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/scire/regentchem.html>

In addition – the website for students to practice and prepare for the Regents examinations can be found at

<http://regentsprep.org/>



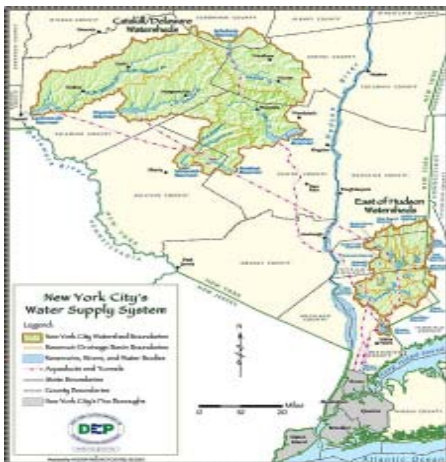
Watershed Education Grant Applications

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is accepting Watershed Education Grant proposals from schools and non-profit organizations serving pre-K through 12th grade audiences and teachers in New York City and the New York City West-of-Hudson (WOH). This program is offered in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

Applications and information are available at: www.cwconline.org/programs/pub_edu/pe_grant_materials.html or call (845)-586-1400, ext. 29 (toll-free (877)-WAT-SHED) to obtain an application packet by mail. Questions may also be directed to Diane Galusha, CWC Education Coordinator, at galusha@cwconline.org or Kim Estes-Fradis, Education Director for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection at (718)-595-3506 or

kestes-fradis@dep.nyc.gov. You may also want to look at the new Watershed Educator's Resource Guide for information about watershed field trip destinations, programs, materials and organizations offering water education services at the Catskills/NYC Watershed Educators Network website: www.watershededucators.org
Proposals must be postmarked by February 1, 2008.

Proposals must be for education projects and programs that help increase awareness of the human and natural history of the WOH Watershed and the New York City water supply system. Proposals may focus on the critical role of communities in caring for water quality in the watershed, the importance of water conservation, the history and contemporary use and operation of the vast water supply system, or the cultural and biological diversity of the city's WOH Watershed. We are encouraging environmental career exploration projects among preferences this year, together with professional development opportunities, curriculum development and upstate/downstate partnership programs.



New York City Watershed Bus Tours from DEP

This is a great opportunity for teachers to take their students to the New York City watershed areas to learn about the water supply system and forestry issues.

Traveling to the Catskill Mountain region or the East

of Hudson Watershed can be an effective way to experience the forest, communities, and reservoir system that supplies almost nine million people with more than one billion gallons of water each day. Teachers may apply for a tour that takes place during one day or several days, with overnight stays in residential facilities.

Visit the website:

http://www.nycwatershed.org/index_education.html for additional information. Click on School Tours to view a sample of themed bus tours and itineraries. For more information, please contact Common Ground Educational Consulting, PO Box 121, Arkville, NY 12406, (845) 586-1600 or e-mail joylenych@catskill.net

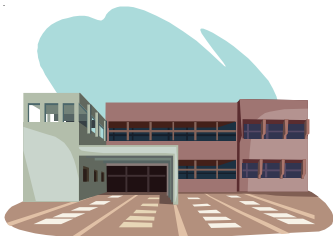


Middle School Teachers-Free Graduate Level Course Grants

As part of the Teacher Leader Quality Partnership (TLQP) grant at the City College of New York, we are offering middle school teachers a free graduate level course, Physical Science for Middle School Teachers (4 Credits), this spring semester. The course is designed to provide additional content knowledge of physical science concepts and instruction in the effective teaching of these concepts to middle school students. The course will be aligned with the new Grades 6-8 Science Scope and Sequence and incorporate investigations from FOSS, SEPUP, and Glencoe. If interested, please contact Greg Borman at (212)-650-6433 or gborman@ccny.cuny.edu.

Teachers' Academy-Middle and High Schools

Please spread the word to your students who plan to enter the world of budding pedagogy that the CUNY Teachers' Academy is looking for students who are interested in teaching in the areas of mathematics and science in middle school or high school. For further information, go to



<http://www1.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/programs-of-note/the-teacher-academy.html>
or e-mail: teacher.academy@mail.cuny.edu.

Workshops in Biotechnology for Middle School and High School Teachers

High school and middle school biology teachers: the Department of Biological Sciences at Hunter College is offering workshops in Biotechnology in July 2008. The course is a four week program (32 hour week). Participating teachers will receive either four graduate credits or a \$2,500 stipend (must receive at least a B in the course). Teachers will also receive \$2,000 in materials for their school and must commit to two Science Fridays during the academic year. For additional information and an application form, call Mr. Todd Miller (before December 21 or after January 20), the HHMI Administration Office at Hunter College, Room 927, (212)-772-5297. Deadline for Submission of Application form: **February 8, 2008.**

Science Supervisors' Association

The next meeting of the Science Supervisors' Association will be held on December 7th, 2007. If you have not joined the Association yet and wish to, please contact Alan Ascher at AlanAscher@aol.com for further information.

Earth Science Training – June 2008 Part D Revision

The initial training for the Earth Science Regents examination revision for the Part D portion of the exam was given to representatives of all of the School Support Organizations on October 16th and 17th, 2007. Each of the School Support Organizations now have the task of training all of the Earth Science teachers within their organizations. Many had Earth Science Part D training on Election Day but this training will be on-going throughout the year. Please contact your School Support Organization (Empowerment, Partnership or Learning Support Organization) for information on the date and location of the next training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Denise McNamara dmcnama@schools.nyc.gov

Science Department Safety Training Notes

Flinn Scientific is offering free Science Department Safety Training Notes for high school science teachers. Simply sign up at www.flinnsci.com/contact_safety.asp There are 10 spaces available for NYC middle school science teachers. There is also the possibility for additional tuition-free courses in the summer sessions.

Young Scientists Day -Mt. Sinai Medical Center

The Young Scientists Day at Mount Sinai Medical Center will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th at 10:00 a.m. will feature the Howard Hughes Memorial Institute (HHMI) Holiday Lectures webcast from Chevy Chase, MD. , **AIDS: Evolution of an Epidemic**. The webcast can be viewed in Mt. Sinai's 80- seat auditorium, at 10 East 101st Street. All interested can contact Ann Consing, ann.consing@mssm.edu for an application and information. We will be giving out Howrad Hughes memorial Institue (HHMI) tee shirts; students will meet faculty with expertise in HIV, and more. **Seating is limited and on a first come, first served basis.**

For more on the lectures à holidaylectures@hhim.org.

Important Update on Harcourt Website

Many schools using the Harcourt Science program have had some trouble accessing the e-planners and e-books. To make accessibility easier for everyone who is using the Harcourt program, please follow these steps:

- 1) The link to get onto the site is:
http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/science/index_nyc.html
- 2) As you enter the site, you will see the following screen:



- 3) Teachers should choose Harcourt eProducts.
- 4) You will be prompted for user name and password (if you are already registered), or you can self register by clicking the register button and following the directions.
- 5) When you sign into your account and register you are asked to enter the ISBN number. Use the following:

Grade 3 ISBN :9780153665387; keyword: skills

Grade 4 ISBN :9780153665431; keyword: visuals

- 6) The user names for all students to access eStudent editions are:

nyork3 or nyork4 ; the password for both is **science**

- 7) If you have any questions for Harcourt, please e-mail: Jeanette.Watley-Wilson@harcourt.com

Elementary and Middle School Focus Groups

The Elementary and Middle School Focus and Leadership groups have had their first meeting during the month of November. The meetings were very successful and many new ideas came from the committee members. We will summarize the notes in the January Newsletter to inform everyone of the outcomes. In the meantime, please feel free to send in your comments on such issues as planning guides, professional development ideas and school scheduling of science periods. You can send all comments to RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov



Information About the 8th Grade State Science Test from the State Education Department

The Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test should be administered to students in the grade in which they will have completed instruction in all the material in the Intermediate-Level Science Core Curriculum (5-8). While this is typically Grade 8, the test may also be administered to students in Grade 7 who will have received instruction in all the material in the Intermediate-Level Science Core Curriculum (5-8) and are being considered for placement in an accelerated high school-level science course when they are in Grade 8. The school may not use this assessment to retest any students who participated in this assessment last school year while in Grade 7. Schools are required to administer this assessment to those students in Grade 8 who did not take this assessment last school year while in Grade 7, unless such students will be taking a Regents Examination in science at the end of this school year.

School principals have the discretion to either require or waive the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test for those accelerated Grade 8 students who did not take this examination during the last school year but who will be taking a Regents Examination in science at the end of this school year. For those accelerated students for whom the school waives the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test, the students' achievement in science will be measured by the student's performance on the Regents Examination in science.

This memo may be accessed at:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/07memos/gr8sci-ss.htm>.

Training for 4th and 8th Grade Science Test

The DOE is offering courses for a minimum cost to prepare and train your teachers for the 4th and 8th grade NYS Science test. You can locate these courses in the Winter catalog at the following link:

<http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/science/SciencePD.doc>



Professional Development



Winter Catalog - PD Offerings

We are offering courses for elementary, middle and high school science at a minimum cost. We have some exciting courses such as:

- *4th and 8th Grade Written and Performance State Test Training
- *Science Notebooking - Elementary and Middle School
- *Science Journaling- Elementary and Middle School
- *Earth Science -Part D Training- High School
- *Radon: A Deadly Gas - High School
- *P.O.G.I.L. Workshop: Equilibrium- High School

Check out the following link for all of these exciting courses:

<http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/science/SciencePD.doc>

These offerings are included in the winter catalog. Principals need to pay through FAMIS to enable teachers to attend. After making a payment through FAMIS and obtaining a purchase order number, the teacher then can click on the "Click Here" tab at the above link to register. The teacher must have the purchase order number in order to complete registration.

New Saturday Series for Units 3 and 4

We will be offering a series of Saturday workshops for Units 3 and 4 exclusively for Grades 3, 4 and 6.

The Department of Science is offering these free workshops on Saturdays, but as you are aware, DOE Central does not pay teachers (either per-session or training rate) for weekday or weekend trainings. Consult with your Principal regarding compensation.

The link for registration is:

http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/mathematics/Saturday_Series.doc x153.

Core Curriculum Free Series of Science PD for Units 3 and 4

These workshops are a series of 3 to 5 days of professional development for Unit 3 and 4: Grades 3, 4 and 6. The workshops are free of charge if your school has purchased science core curriculum materials.

The workshops are during regular school hours, so teachers must get permission from their supervisors to be released in order to attend. The workshops are spread over a few weeks so the attending teachers miss only one day of school every few weeks.

The workshops will be offered in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, but space is limited at each site. Check the link below for all registration details. First come, first served!

These offerings can be found at:

http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/mathematics/Weekday_Series.doc

Any questions regarding any of the PD sessions you can contact Roy Harris at RHarris2@schools.nyc.gov or Sheldon Young at SYoung14@schools.nyc.gov

Check our website under Educators Resources for constantly updated Science Professional Opportunities. You can either get to the page by navigating through the science website or by going directly to the page by this link:

<http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/science/SciencePD.doc>

Weather and Climate P-Credit Course at the Center for Space Science

This spring, the Center for Space Science will be offering a p-credit course on the implementation of *Airplanes and the Atmosphere*. *Airplanes and the Atmosphere* is a Regents Earth Science curriculum module written by the Center for Space Science and the American Museum of Natural History.

Using an inquiry based approach, the curriculum module is structured to systematically explore the connections between the atmosphere, weather, climate, and airplanes. In the p-credit course, teachers will strengthen their knowledge of weather and climate as they develop strategies for implementing the curriculum in their classroom. Emphasis will also be placed on assessing student work. Registration starts January 7. For more information, check out:

www.nycsse.org/atmosphere or call (212).608.6164,

Science Council of New York City (SCONYC)

The 31st Annual SCONYC Conference will be held on April 12, 2008 at Stuyvesant High School. Up-to-date information will be found at the SCONYC website, www.sconyc-ny.org as well as current information about other important events.

This conference features four workshop sessions, general session with guest speaker, exhibition of materials, buffet luncheon and networking with colleagues. New teachers should be strongly encouraged to attend; all participants receive a certificate of attendance for six hours of professional development. An important feature for new teachers is the exhibit hall that has an array of science materials and displays of resources from the 75+ vendors. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the SCONYC conference, the deadline for proposals is March 1, 2008. You may access the application at the following link:

http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/science/SCONYC_WorkshopLetter2008.pdf

November 6th Election Day Professional Development

We had a very successful professional development day on November 6th at many sites throughout New York City. Over 650 third, fourth and sixth grade teachers were introduced to Unit 2 core curricula.

Special thanks to the following principals for hosting our workshops:

Harcourt: H. Gaynor, R. Sundick, N. Barnes, K. Peknic, E. Claudio and A. Efkarpidis.

Glencoe: S. Weissbrot, C. Moore, E. Leotta, V. Suraci, J. Buckheit and L. Gioe-Cordi.

Foss: M. George-Fields, J. Pizarro, S. Keaton, L. Ortiz, K. Kirkland and J. Lisa.

National Science Olympiad

The New York State Education Department, in cooperation with the National Science Olympiad and the New York State Science Olympiad, invites your students to participate in a Statewide Science Olympiad competition. Teams of students from public and nonpublic middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools are eligible for participation in this event. This New York Statewide Olympiad will consist of academic, interscholastic competitions between individuals and between teams. Registered students would prepare during the year for scheduled regional, state, and possibly national competitions. Competitions follow the formats of popular board games, Olympic games, and TV shows. These challenging and motivational events are well balanced among the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, and technology. There is also a balance between events requiring knowledge of science content, concepts, processes, skills, and applications. Competitive teams will be made up of students from grades 6-9 and from grades 9-12. Additional information and registration forms may be found at:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/Olympiad.htm>

Important Websites and E-Mails

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, please 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