

APRIL EBLAST 2007

Hi Everyone: Welcome to our April. BaP eblast! We appreciate that you are sharing this information with other teachers of science and math in your building, and as always, be sure to drop us an email if we can ever help you.

Upcoming events in Montana Math and Science include:

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April 14 – Expanding Your Horizons – Bozeman

April 20 – 22nd – Improving Skills in Using Technology Conference – Canyon Ferry

May 11 – Last day to submit an application to present at MEA-MFT

June 11 – 14 – Moving with Skimmers, Gliders and Gears Workshop – Canyon Ferry

August 8 – 10 – Chemistry Workshop – Canyon Ferry

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1. Math Science Conference targeted to Improve Skills in your District

The Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake is holding a conference on April 20-22 with an all day pre-session and on April 20th from 9:00am till 3:00pm for mathematics and science teachers in grades 7 to 10.

Pre-Conference: Improving Performance in 7-10 Mathematics on the Montana Measured Progress Test - How to turn AYP into Excellent YP.

Learn: Research on Teaching Effectiveness in Mathematics

See: Questions from the 2006, 2005, and 2004 state tests

Develop: Strategies for test improvement in your district

Gather: Grade-specific materials for using with your students

Conference on April 20th - 22nd

Improving technology skills in life science, biology, and mathematics for teachers 7-12

The conference will showcase the latest and best tools for building exciting lessons that really key in on wildlife sciences and mathematics topics.

Date & Times: Starting Friday, April 20th, 2007 at 6:00 pm and going until Sunday Morning April 22nd at 11:30 am.

Gain new PowerPoint tips

Get the latest GeoGebra program for science and math problem modeling

Learn techniques for building web pages

Design professional looking worksheets and tests

Teach students to take advantage of calculators in learning

Share ideas for great technology based lessons

Garner and interpret scientific data on bears and fish

Learn about Montana wildlife and how to use data to increase student interest in learning

Learn about the resources for teaching Montana students

Register on the web: www.MontanaLearning.org

Register by email: jkhoward@MontanaLearning.org

Register by phone: 406-475-3638 ask for Jean or Carol

2. Get Your Students Involved in the Physical Sciences.

The "Physic is Pun" group would like you to share a Physics or Physical Science activity with your colleagues. The perfect venue for doing this is the Oct. MEA-MFT conference in Belgrade. The MEA-MFT website is the place to sign up under the "Applications To Present" <http://mea-mft.net/>.

For more information on the physical science you can contact the MSTA state leader Wayne Mangold at waynem@midrivers.com. Wayne would love to hear any physical science activities that you might be doing, or if you have any questions on physics or physical science, be sure to contact Wayne.

3. Participate in the NSELA Leadership Conference

The National Science Education Leadership Association (NSELA) summer Leadership Institute The Rising Tides of Science Education: Preparing students for Global Leadership will be held on the Asilomar Conference Grounds (CA) (www.visitasilomar.com) from June 28 – July 2. This is a unique networking opportunity for education leaders and it features national experts and practitioners. For more information go to <http://www.nsela.org>

4. GES Earth Day Photo Contest for Middle School Students

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies is holding an Earth Day photo contest for middle school students. Interested students are asked to photograph something that is changing in their local environment. They are to take the photo between Sunday, April 22, and Sunday, April 29. The change could be occurring in the student's backyard, outside the student's school, in a local park or even off in the distance. Participants then research and write an explanation of the change documented in the photograph.

The contest is open to all U.S. students in grades 5-8.

Entries must be received by e-mail or postmarked by May 9, 2007.

For more information about the contest and how teachers can use it in the classroom,

visit: <http://www.strategies.org/education/index.aspx?sub=education&sub2=earthday&sub3=contest2007>

5. 2007 Toyota International Teacher Program

Greetings from the Institute of International Education! We are pleased to announce that the application is now available for the 2007 Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands, a unique professional development program for secondary school teachers.

This is a special chance for educators to visit these remote islands; the inspiration for Darwin and home to unique ecosystems found no where else on Earth!

This year the program is open to classroom teachers of all disciplines in grades 7-12, who teach full time in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty eligible applicants will be selected in May to participate on this fully funded program.

The application is now online at www.iie.org/toyota.

The deadline for application is April 23, 2007; only a few months away, so your help in spreading the word will be greatly appreciated. We need associations to help us contact eligible teachers who might never hear of this program otherwise

6. Free Technology from Texas Instruments

Thanks to Sharla Dowding for sharing that Texas Instruments will give you a TI Presentation Link adapter (valued at

\$39.95). All you need to do is let them know what courses are you using TI technology? Simply send them your syllabus and they will send you these support materials:

A TI Classroom Activities CD with hundreds of technology-enriched math and science activities; a TI Presentation Link adapter (valued at \$39.95) that allows each student to present their work on the graphing calculator to the entire class.

Submit Your Syllabus to

Texas Instruments, 7800 Banner Drive Dallas, Texas 75251 or

EMAIL: ti-educators@ti.com • CALL: 1-800-TI-CARES • VISIT:

www.education.ti.com

7. Moving with Skimmers, Gliders, Gears Workshop

Would you like some free classroom materials for your 5 – 10th grade classes? This workshop is held at Canyon Ferry from June 11 – 14. There are limited scholarships, many hands-on integrated lessons and participants will have the opportunity to design, build and learn about skimmers, gliders and gears. You can also earn 30 OPI renewal credits or 2 continuing Ed. Grad credits. The workshop will focus on problem based learning with complete integration and identification of Standards.

For more information contact Edith Cranor-Buck (ecranorbuck@helena.k12.mt.us) Helena Middle School Math Teacher, 406.324.1057 or 406-449-1225 or

Georgia A. Cobbs (georgia.cobbs@mso.umt.edu), University of Montana, 406.243.6052

8. Have a FREE Presentation About Mars in Your Classroom.

The Space Public Outreach Team (SPOT) at Montana State University brings presentations about current NASA missions FREE OF CHARGE to Montana K-12 classrooms and community groups. This year our shows include Mars 3D! and The Sun-Earth Connection. If you are interested in scheduling a free presentation for your school, please contact the SPOT office by phone (406-994-1677) or email (spot@spacegrant.montana.edu). We have plenty of days available in April and May!

Thanks Sharla Dowding for a few more items

9. Genome Science in the 21st Century Summer Institute

Take an exciting tour of some of today's hottest science and topics in the news—stem cell research, mammalian cloning, gene therapy, personalized medicine, family health history, and the genetics of addiction. You'll learn the science, technology, potential, challenges, and bioethical issues related to these cutting-edge fields that promise to revolutionize medicine and health care. Hear talks by scientists, tour research labs, and engage in using the animated, online, wet lab and classroom curriculum materials on these topics developed by the Genetic Science Learning Center in collaboration with master teachers from across the U.S.

Dates: July 9-13, 2007

Location: University of Utah Genetic Science Learning Center, Salt Lake City, UT

Cost: \$275, includes all materials, breakfasts and lunches; low-cost lodging options available

Credit: 3 graduate credits from the Department of Human Genetics (optional, \$40 additional fee)

Application deadline: May 31, 2007

Application and more information:: <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/teachers/courses/gc2007/>

10. Neat Chemistry Game for Your Students to Play

CHEMISTRY: GCSE Balancing equations battleships! A fun interactive game of online battleship where students must correctly identify the balanced equation in order for their "hit" to count.

<http://www.quia.com/ba/22228.html>

11. A Writing Technique for Your Classroom

We are always looking for ways to utilize fun, motivating writing in the science classroom, and the "Quick Write" might be one such technique. The basic idea is that students are given a limited period of time to write about a specified topic. It might be the lab activity that was done in the last few days, or it might be that demonstration or discrepant event whereby students are trying to provide an explanation. Sometimes such writings can be exchanged with other students to see if the other students agrees or disagrees with the written explanation. It could even be something like having the students write a set of directions for something, then exchange papers and see if the other student can guess what the set of directions is for. The exchanged papers could be corrected for correct grammar, etc. The idea is that students are writing about what they are doing and learning in class.