

To: Hi Everyone:

We had fantastic MEA/MFT conference in Missoula with many wonderful math and science sectionals (thanks to everyone who supported all this). We'll look forward to next year in Billings, and please make it a goal to have some teachers from your school present some sectionals. We also signed up some new Points of Contact, and we thank them in this eblast for passing the information in this eblast on to other teachers of science in their school. We appreciate your service.

Upcoming events in Montana Math and Science include:

Nov. 6 – 7 – MCTM Regional Conference – Reno, NV
Nov. 20–22 – NSTA Regional Conference – Portland, OR
Nov. 25 – Science Olympiad – MSU, Bozeman
Jan 30 – 31 – Math Science Leadership Conference – Boz.
March 19–22 – NSTA National Conference – New Orleans, LA
April 22–25 – MCTM National Conference – Washington DC

In this Eblast, please find:

1. ! ; Math / Science Leadership Conference
2. Online Survey for Montana Science Teachers Association
3. Partners in Science Program
4. The Best of the Teaching Tips Websites!
5. Montana Science Olympiad
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7. Einstein Fellowship - Application Now Open!
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1. Math / Science Leadership Conference

The conference is generally a sell- out and filled up by Dec., so now is the time to register. It is being held on Jan 30 – 31 at the Comfort Inn in Boz., MT. Please contact Angel Greenley at greenleya@billings.k12.mt.us to be sure you get your spot at the conference. The! topic this year is a continuation of the India for All theme,! and pre senter Bill Haye is a member of the Assiniboine/Sioux Indian Nation and a faculty member of Lewis-Clark State College. There are many break out sessions, leadership opportunities and the "State of the State" address for both math and science is always a highlight. This is a great conference to bring your principal and/or other school science and math leaders too. Information can either be obtained from Angel or go to the BaP Message board where the leadership letter, agenda and registration form is posted (<http://bap.nsta.org/>, then log in and go to [Montana Message board](#)) You can also find all the information at the MSTTA website. (<http://www.abaetern.com/montanascience/>).

2. Online Survey for Montana Science Teachers Association

This is our state-wide science teachers group. What is the benefit of joining? While there are many reasons, this group provides you with the opportunities to serve and help teach! ers of science in Montana. If you've let your dues lapse, please take a minute right now to sign back up (<http://www.abaetern.com/montanascience/>)

The Montana Science Teachers' Association is conducting a survey of members, nonmembers, and potential members. The intent of the survey is to get feedback into ways MSTTA can better serve the teachers of Montana. As a Point of Contact in your school, please be sure that each teacher of science

complete the survey, that way, we'll have some ideas on how to improve the organization. To participate in the anonymous survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/4zxmdw> <<http://tinyurl.com/4zxmdw>>

3. Partners in Science Program

We don't have near enough applicants for this program and the deadline is approaching. Have you thought of ways to get more money for your school activities? This might be it!

Montana State University has received information regarding a generous grant program from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust called "Partners in Science." The grant provides \$15,000 of funds for high school science teachers to do research for two summers under the guidance of a research mentor. It is open to various science fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, etc.

If you are a natural sciences teacher who would be interested in learning more about this program or are seeking a research mentor, please contact Audrey Thurlow, Pre-Award Services, Office of Sponsored Programs, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, (406) 994-6240, athurlow@montana.edu

The "Partners in Science" web site has application materials at <http://www.murdock-trust.org/> ("How to Apply", then "Formal Program Grants in Science")

Deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2008. Submission must be made through an institution.

4. The Best of the Teaching Tips Websites!

Have you ever wanted that "one stop teaching tips website?" This might be it. It has ideas on assessment, core abilities, critical thinking, preparing a lesson plan, etc. Hundreds of resources and ideas for teachers. Check this out at:

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/teachtip.htm>

5. Montana Science Olympiad

It is still possible for you to become a part of this event, but you act quick. If you haven't done this activity, you'll want to get your school involved (there is a special fee structure for schools who haven't attended). Hundreds of students descend upon MSU on Nov. 25 for a day of science activities. Some of the best reasons for planning to attend might be the preparation in the weeks prior to the Olympiad. You can engage your students in doing some high level inquiry-based science that is full of activity. Then your top students in each event can go on to the state competition at MSU. Go to <http://www.montana.edu/wwwmtso/> to find out information, get an application form, etc. This will be a fun event for your students.

6. Research Experiences for Teachers

Florida State University is now offering two Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) programs in/near Tallahassee, FL. Both programs are funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). These RETs are 6 week summer research experiences that match highly qualified Elementary, Middle and High School teachers with scientists at either the National High Magnetic Field Lab (NHMFL) or the FSU Coastal Marine Lab. The programs offer teachers a \$3600 stipend, travel and housing support to non-local teachers.

For details and online application visit:

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

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OR

<http://bio.fsu.edu/osta/RET>

7. Einstein Fellowship - Application Now Open!

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2009-2010 school year, apply and submit three letters of recommendation online by January 13, 2009.

Apply online at

<https://applicationlink.labworks.org/applicationlink/default.htm>

For more information about the Einstein Fellows program visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm or contact Liz Burck at burckl@triangle-coalition.org.

8. 2009 Thacher Scholars Award

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) announces the 2009 Thacher Scholars Award, to be given to secondary school students (grades 9-12) demonstrating the best use of geospatial technologies or data to study Earth.

Three cash awards will be given: 1st place -- \$2,000; 2nd place -- \$1,000; and 3rd place -- \$500. Entries can be submitted by individuals or teams. In the case of team entries, the cash award will be split equally among the winning team members.

In addition to prizes for the winning students, the teachers of the first, second- and third-place students or teams will receive a \$200 amazon.com gift card. If participation is part of an after-school club or other activity independent of school, the student or team can identify an adult "coach" who would be eligible for this award (e.g., a parent, club leader, etc.).

Entries must be postmarked April 6, 2009. IGES plans to announce the winning entries by May 12, 2009. Entries will be judged by IGES staff. Eligible geospatial tools and data include satellite remote sensing, aerial photography, geographic information systems (GIS), and Global Positioning System (GPS). The main focus of the project must be on the application of the geospatial tool(s) or data to study a problem related to Earth's environment.

Geospatial technologies and data have numerous uses in science research, ranging from climate prediction to archaeology. They can be used to improve our understanding of the Earth system, including interactions among the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere. They can also be used to improve the quality of our lives by supporting weather prediction, natural hazards monitoring, agriculture, land-use planning, coastal management, transportation, public health emergency response and other fields.

The Thacher Scholars Award was founded in honor of former IGES board member Peter Thacher, who died in 1999. Peter Thacher was former deputy executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, NASA advisor and, at the time of his death, president of the Earth Council Foundation/U.S. He was a leader in promoting the use of satellite remote sensing.

For more information on the Thacher Scholars Award, please visit <http://www.strategies.org/ThacherScholars>.

9. ARMADA Project- Research and Mentoring Experiences for Teachers

The University of Rhode Island's Office of Marine Programs is now accepting applications for the ARMADA Project- Research and Mentoring Experiences for Teachers. The ARMADA Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, provides K-12 teachers an opportunity to actively participate in ocean, polar, and environmental science research and peer mentoring.

Selected Master Teachers (with five or more years teaching experience) are paired with! leading scientists and participate in shipboard, field, or laboratory research. Research experiences will take place during the summer, although there may be opportunities during the school year. Upon completion of their research experience, Master Teachers develop ways to bring the fruits of their research experiences, including scientific data, methodologies, and technology into their classrooms. They share their experiences by mentoring new teachers in their school district and by presenting their results at the National Science Teachers Association National Conventions.

The ARMADA Project has placed teachers in research experiences all over the world. Past experiences include taking part in the largest North Pacific humpback whale study in the waters off the coast of Alaska, investigating the impacts of global change in the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic, monitoring and assessing tidal creeks in South Carolina, studying the impact of human activity on dusky dolphins in New Zealand, identifying foraging! behaviors of Antarctic Crabeater Seals, water circulation studies in the Norwegian Sea, and a variety of ecosystem monitoring projects in the Bay of Fundy, Narragansett Bay, Gulf of Maine, Stellwagen Bank, Western Shelf of Florida, Sargasso Sea, Bahamas, Alaska, and Block Island Sound. See www.armadaproject.org for more information on past research experiences.

Application deadline is February 9, 2009

For more information about teacher qualifications, responsibilities, and to download an application see the ARMADA Project website www.armadaproject.org or contact Andrea Kecskes at 401-874-6211 or armada@gso.uri.edu.

10. Free Astronomy Presentation for your School

The Space Public Outreach Team (SPOT) impacted over 10,000 students last year. A SPOT presenter comes out and gives a program free of charge to the school and all expenses are covered by the Montana Space Grant Consortium. If you are interested in a program check out! :

<http://solar.physics.montana.edu/spot/>

The website has some great astronomy ideas so be sure to check this out.

11. Free Smartboard Science Software for You.

If you have a Smartboard in your class, you might wish to check out this site. There are many different lessons on many different science curriculums. You could use them without a SmarthBoard, but they wouldn't be interactive.

http://www.bridgeportisd.net/depts/tech/cit/henson/hs_dw_newweb/integ_sb_science.html

From our NSTA Regional Representative: Sharla Dowding.

12. NASA and the Challenger Center Announce Naming Contest

NASA and the Challenger Center for Space Education have partnered to engage students in ongoing activities for one of NASA's concepts for astronaut housing on the moon through a contest to name a habitat in Antarctica. NASA currently is conducting a test of a lightweight, durable, inflatable habitat on the cold, harsh landscape of the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station.

The Challenger Center is organizing and conducting the "Name that Habitat" competition for students in kindergarten through twelfth grades from Oct 21 to Nov. 20, 2008. The Challenger Center will recruit subject matter experts to serve as judges for the contest and will provide prizes and other items for the winner and participants. The winning name will be selected later this year and announced by scientists in Antarctica in January 2009. Student, teachers and the public will be able to follow the progress of inflatable habitat activities throughout the project.

The habitat was funded through NASA's Innovative Partnership Program's Seed Fund initiative, with in-kind resource contributions by the National Science Foundation and ILC Dover of Frederica, Del., the manufacturer of the structure. An inflatable habitat is one of several concepts being considered for astronaut housing on the moon. The structure looks something like an inflatable backyard bounce house for children, but it is far more sophisticated. It is insulated, heated and is pressurized, and has power. It offers 384 square feet of living space and has, at its highest point, an 8-foot ceiling. During the test period, sensors will allow engineers to monitor the habitat's performance.

The contest helps NASA fulfill its mission to promote an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The Challenger Center is an international, nonprofit educational organization founded in 1986 by the families of the astronauts lost during the last flight of the space shuttle Challenger. The goal of the organization is to foster student interest in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

For more information about entering the Name that Habitat contest, visit:

<http://www.challenger.org/hab>

The inflatable habitat is being developed under NASA's Innovative Partnerships Program. For more information about the program, visit:

<http://www.ipp.nasa.gov>

For more information about NASA and agency programs, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov>

From: John Graves <graves@montana.edu>

Subject:

Cc:

Bcc:

Attachments:

