

E-Blast # 2 February 2010

WORLD MATH DAY MAKES MATH COUNT ON MARCH 3, 2010

Unite the world in numbers! Keyboards around the globe will be heard on March 3, when students of all nationalities participate in the Fourth Annual World Math Day. More than 2.5 million students, from 40,000 schools in over 200 countries are expected to take part in the world's largest education event. Participants can play competitors of similar age and ability in real time, 60-second online arithmetic games. Last year, 1.95 million students from 204 countries set a world record by correctly answering more than 452 million arithmetic questions. Starting today, students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to help beat last year's record by logging on to www.worldmathday.com to register for World Math Day.

The online competition is free of charge. World Math Day 2010 features an exciting new format with multiple skill levels for all age groups. Participants can play in up to 500 games in the online competition. The World Champion in each category will receive a "Minted Gold Medal;" and all participants will receive certificates for taking part. World Math Day is the "Olympics of all other Math Challenges."

Information on the items below can be found on the LSTA website; www.lsta.info

1. Free Earth Scientist issue available on request Deadline February 22, 2010
2. NASA Sky Calls – astronomy alert service Participation limited
3. US DoEd Teaching Ambassador Fellowships Applications due March 2, 2010
4. Podcasts of interest to science educators
5. Live Earth Water
6. AEP interactive electrical safety awareness module
7. American Chemical Society Inquiry in Action: Investigating Matter
8. SciJinks Predicting Weather
9. 2010 Journey North Begins
10. Louisiana State Museum Educator Social at Target America
11. Audubon Aquarium's Distance Learning FREE Coast to Classroom Field Experiences

1. **Supersized" issue of The Earth Scientist coming soon!** by *Richard Jones*

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Cooperative Institute for Climate and Ocean Research (CICOR) has sponsored a "Supersized" 50+ page special Ocean Observatories issue of *The Earth Scientist*, which includes a full-size 2' x 6' educational poster created by the Center for Environmental Visualization at the University of Washington. CICOR has generously funded 5000 copies and NOAA has stepped up to add additional copies in order to get this special edition representing a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort into as many classrooms as possible.

Please visit: <http://cis.whoi.edu/science/cicor/tes/request.cfm> and complete the online request form. The issue is scheduled to be mailed March 1, 2010 and **requests must be in by February 22, 2010**. Offer valid while supplies last and will be distributed on a first-come first-serve basis.

2. Sky Calls is a NASA-supported astronomy alert service that puts kids in touch with the sky—night and day. Anyone with a telephone can participate. When there is an eclipse, an alignment of planets, a big solar flare, or a flyby of the International Space Station, the phone rings. A voice message from NASA

alerts students to the event and tells them how they can see or experience it. Students with cell phones can choose to receive text messages instead of voice. Of course, teachers can participate, too.

The alerts support National Academy of Science standards in technology, physical science, and astronomy. They're great at sparking classroom discussion. Indeed, sometimes it is hard to stop students from talking about what they saw in the sky the night before. Throughout the year, teachers will be supplied with optional lesson plans and activities they can use to harness this enthusiasm for science enrichment.

Most alerts arrive after school, around dinner time, when the sky is darkening. Events on the sun, however, may be announced just before school or during the day. Cell-phone carrying teachers can share the news with their students during science class as it happens. "A major solar flare has just exploded on the sun. NASA says radio blackouts are possible—and there could be auroras tomorrow night." This is science *as it happens*.

Participating classrooms will receive a set of parent/guardian permission forms. Send these forms home with your students for signatures. When a student returns the signed form to the classroom, they can sign-up and begin receiving alerts right away.

Signing up is easy at our secure web site, and may be done in the classroom or school library. Participants enter their zip code, phone number, email address and—presto!—the sign up is complete. The address of the web site and a special "coupon code" will be provided to participating classrooms.

Sky Calls is managed for NASA by Dr. Tony Phillips: tphillips@qnet.com

3. Teachers with successful strategies for increasing student achievement are encouraged to apply for Teaching Ambassador Fellowship positions with the U.S. Department of Education for the 2010-2011 school year. Teachers will be chosen based upon their record of leadership, impact on student achievement and potential for contribution to the Department and the field.

The program offers two tracks: Classroom and Washington Fellows.

Classroom Fellows will serve their regular teaching contracts with their districts and will be paid to perform additional fellowship duties for the Department of Education. As practicing classroom teachers, these Fellows will share an important perspective for -- and will gain more knowledge about -- education policy and program development. They will share their experiences with other Fellows and with the Department of Education at designated times throughout the year.

Washington Fellows will serve as full-time federal employees in Washington, D.C., from the summer of 2010 through June 2011. They will be placed in appropriate positions within the Department of Education to work on education program development and implementation. They will focus on using their previous classroom experience to contribute knowledge and insight to various Department of Education projects. They will spend the majority of their time working in program offices, increasing their knowledge of and contributing to federal education policies and programs, and collaborating with other Fellows.

Applications for both tracks are due **March 2, 2010**. For more information about this fellowship opportunity and activities of the current group of Teaching Ambassador Fellows, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship/index.html>.

If you have questions about the fellowship, please e-mail your inquiries to TeacherFellowship@ed.gov or call 1-800-USA-Learn.

4. Podcasts

a. K-12: Engineering Innovation Podcast and Radio Series <http://www.nae.edu/radio>

The National Academy of Engineering works with the Washington, D.C. region's only all-news radio station - WTOP Radio - and the nation's only all-news radio station for federal employees - WFED AM 1050— to provide weekly features highlighting engineering innovations and stories that add technical context to issues in the news.

You can learn about the latest, for example, on Bridge Stress (A material commonly used in the aerospace industry might soon be used to keep bridges safe.) and on Engineered Knee Ligaments (Ski season is a prime time for injuries to the knee's A-C-L. It's the ligament that connects your upper and lower leg, and replacements often fail.)

b. K-12: How about podcasts on current science issues? Try “Sounds of Science”

<http://nationalacademies.org> and <http://www.nap.edu/podcast.html>

The biweekly Sounds of Science podcasts are informative and entertaining, and only last 10 minutes each. Tune in to all the key findings and important recommendations made by the National Academies of Science, and be an even better informed and fascinating science teacher than you already are! Subscribe through iTunes, and consider using some clips in class with your students.

5. K-12: DOW Live Earth Run for Water highlights the water crisis <http://www.globe.gov/>

Get this on your calendar: April 18 is Live Earth Day.

GLOBE has partnered with Live Earth (<http://liveearth.org/en/>) in support of the Dow Live Earth Run for Water, a worldwide series of events to occur on April 18, 2010 dedicated to finding solutions for the global water crisis. GLOBE is contributing to the educational component of these events. Live Earth Run for Water will feature 6 km runs (the average distance that women and children in Africa, Asia and Latin America must walk every day to obtain drinking water), concerts, and education villages to raise awareness and support to help solve the water crisis.

The water crisis can be solved through increased awareness, water conservation efforts and investment in sustainable, scalable and replicable water projects. In an effort to involve teachers and children in this effort, Live Earth has created an online destination containing easy activity ideas from our educational partners. Project partners include Aqua for All, Akvo, Project WET and GLOBE, all of which have generously provided fun activities for children, which can be downloaded on the web site. Teachers can also find additional information on these partners and visit their sites for more ideas and activities.

6. Gr 4-12: AEP has an online, interactive electrical safety awareness module.

<http://www.aepohio.com/go/electricalsafety/>

American Electric Power developed the module for all audiences from students to first responders, this self-study, narrated module explores electrical safety through interactive matching exercises, video clips, knowledge checks and more. All that's needed is a computer. The module is especially suitable to middle and high school students, but upper elementary school students may also enjoy working through the module. Younger elementary school students may find our Electric Universe website featuring Louie the Lightning Bug better tailored to their needs.

The module is divided into five chapters, including:

* Chapter One - Electricity Basics: The Properties of Electricity and Key Terms

- * Chapter Two - Important Facts About Electricity
- * Chapter Three - The Anatomy of an Electric System
- * Chapter Four - Hazards and Safety Precautions
- * Chapter Five - How to Respond to Electrical Emergencies

7. Gr K-8: Inquiry in Action: Investigating Matter <http://www.inquiryinaction.org/>

The American Chemical Society has created this website to accompany their “Inquiry in Action” book, with hands-on physical science and chemistry activities, downloadable molecular animations and videos in Windows Media or Quicktime format, a chemistry background section, information on upcoming workshops, and more. You can even download a PDF version of the entire 470-page book for free!

8. Gr 6-8: NASA Website Teaches MS Students About Predicting Weather Patterns <http://scijinks.gov>

“SciJinks” is a highly interactive Web site that provides middle-school students and audiences of all ages an amazing science education opportunity. Provided by NOAA and NASA, the Web site transports visitors to the wild world of weather to learn about predicting global weather patterns.

Click on the Educators link at the bottom of the page for suggestions on how to use the SciJinks resources in the classroom: <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/en/educators/>

Become a fan on the SciJinks Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/scijinks>

You can even follow SciJinks on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/scijinks>

9. Journey North Begins

Though it’s February, you and your students should be on the lookout for any signs of spring. These signs can be observed through monitoring the northern migration of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, and other animals. Journey North, a free web-based program, allows students to explore wildlife migration, the blooming of plants, and seasonal changes in temperature and sunlight. K–12 teachers and students worldwide are invited to participate and take advantage of lessons, photos, video clips, interactive maps, and migration “stories,” among other resources. For more information, visit:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

10. Louisiana State Museum Educator Social at Target America

Mingle with your fellow teachers/educators while enjoying wine, cheese and an exclusive preview of the new Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause:... exhibit at the Old U. S. Mint. Special guests include Lindsey Prevost, Council on Alcohol and Drugs and Carlton Simmons, Drug Enforcement Administration. Educators will receive a guided tour of the exhibit and tickets for a future museum visit to the Cabildo.

When: February 27, 2010; 10:00am-12:30pm

Where: 400 Esplanade Avenue; New Orleans, LA 70116

Please R. S. V. P. to Gaynell Brady, 504-568-7056 or gbrady@crt.state.la.us

11. Coast to Classroom is a live web-casted class offered to all teachers in LA. The program entails 1 30-45 minute class session for 4th-12th grade students. Through a generous grant from DISL, NOAA, and GOMA, these **classes are offered free of charge** to all teachers through May 2010.

Classes will interact with an Aquarium Educator live via the internet. Advanced registration is required to participate, and classes are offered at various times during regular school hours, Monday-Friday. Technical requirements to participate are simply an internet connection and computer speakers.

Programs offered include:

4th-8th grade—Identification of Gulf Habitats

9th-12th grade—Coastal Conservation Issues and Restoration

For more information about this new learning experience, please contact Tricia LeBlanc at tleblanc@auduboninstitute.org or 504-378-2675.