

E-Blast # 2 August 2011

2011 EAGLE Workshops for TEACHERS

EAGLE workshops are now open for registration in Coursewhere.

<https://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/main.asp>.

First-time users must create an account for themselves under the Account Creation/Registration Instructions section. For help on how to use Coursewhere, click on the link 'Help On Using Coursewhere' located at the top of the page. Session times, addresses of the locations, and directions to each facility are available in Coursewhere.

EAGLE is an online classroom tool that can be used by teachers to create and assign quizzes, choosing from over 10,000 items that are aligned with GLEs. Classroom reports are available to teachers for adjusting their instruction and for meeting students' needs.

Students receive individual reports for which they can learn to assess their own performance on the GLEs. With EAGLE, students can see how to adjust their own learning by discovering which GLEs they know pretty well, and on which ones they need more work.

***EAGLE now contains grades 1 – 12 ELA and math, and grades 4, 8 and all high school science and social studies courses.

The use of EAGLE is FREE for all public school teachers and without charge to districts.

Date	Location	Facility	Address	Times
Aug. 19	Chalmette	Chalmette Elem. School	75 E. Chalmette Circle	9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00
Aug. 23	Baton Rouge	Christa McAuliffe Center	12000 Goodwood Blvd.	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30
Aug. 24	Chalmette	Chalmette Elem. School	75 E. Chalmette Circle	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30
Aug. 25	Crowley	Adult Ed. Center	2122 N. Parkerson Ave.	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30
Aug. 30	Alexandria	Professional Development Center	2121 Mason St.	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30
Aug. 31	West Monroe	O.P. Instructional Annex	920 Thomas Rd.	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30
Sep. 1	Bossier	Bossier Instructional Center	2719 Airline Hwy.	8:00-11:30 12:30-3:30

For information on the following educational offers and resources please visit the LSTA website at: http://lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast_August_2011_2.pdf

1. NOVA Spark Education Engineering Ground Zero September 7
2. Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Application due: September 15
3. KaBOOM! Let's Play Spruce Grants Deadline: September 15, October 15
4. LPBF's 2011 Beach Sweep is Saturday, Sept 17th
5. Light Up A Landmark for Lights On Afterschool Contest Deadline: September 23
6. The Sally Ride Science Festival at LSU will be on September 24
7. Global Green USA's Green School Makeover Competition Deadline: September 30
8. Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants Deadline: October 14 or 1,500 applications
9. Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program Deadline: October 31
10. Free MY NASA DATA short-course New Orleans, the afternoon of November 12
11. Odyssey of the Mind Long-Term Problem -- Weird Science.
12. Free weather related chapters from selected NSTA publications
13. Lifelines for High School Climate Change Education PLCs
14. Year of the Solar System - Resources for Windy Worlds
15. ScienceCasts - New Online Video Series from NASA (Thursdays at 4 p.m. ET)
16. Grd 6-12 Project SPECTRA! is a science and engineering program
17. Calendar

1. NOVA Spark Education

A new school year and a new season of NOVA kick-off together in September with the premiere of [Engineering Ground Zero](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/wtc/). <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/wtc/> This month's back-to-school edition of SPARK offers a quick reference to the best teacher resources that NOVA and WGBH have to offer. Nova's teachers' website brings science, technology, and engineering to life for your students. Curated specifically for STEM educators, this free digital library offers standards-based classroom resources from NOVA and other public television series.

Can lessons learned from the Twin Towers' collapse make new buildings safer? Watch [Engineering Ground Zero: Designing and Building the New World Trade Center](#) on September 7.

Teachers' Domain is moving to PBS LearningMedia, a new digital media service that empowers PreK16 educators to engage students with high-quality content, produced specifically for educators, and tied to Common Core and national curriculum standard.

2. Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Application due September 15

The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, in partnership with NanoRacks LLC, announces an immediate opportunity for communities across the U.S. to participate in the first Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, or SSEP, mission to America's national laboratory in space -- the International Space Station. The program is also open to space station partner nations.

Each participating community will be provided an experiment slot in a real microgravity research mini-laboratory scheduled to fly on the space station from March 30 to May 16, 2012. An experiment design competition in each community -- engaging 300 to 1,000 students -- allows student teams to design **real** experiments vying for their communities' reserved experiment slot on the space station. Additional SSEP programming leverages the experiment design competition to engage the community, embracing a Learning Community Model for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

Letters of Commitment for this opportunity are due Sept. 15, 2011.

To learn more about this opportunity, visit the SSEP Mission 1 to ISS National Announcement of Opportunity at <http://ssep.ncesse.org/2011/07/immediate-historic-opportunity-for-schools-student-spaceflight-experiments-program-mission-1-to-the-international-space-station/>.

3. KaBOOM! Let's Play Spruce Grants Deadline: Sept 15, Oct 15, Nov 15

With support from Dr Pepper Snapple Group, KaBOOM! will be awarding grants of \$750 each to communities this year who wish to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting. Communities must demonstrate that they have maintained their playspace and they have led an improvement project in the last 60 days. Communities that demonstrate this will receive a \$750 gift card to further enhance or improve their playspace. <http://bit.ly/qNmQCs>

4. LPBF's 2011 Beach Sweep is Saturday, Sept 17th!!

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's 22nd annual Beach Sweep, LPBF's Beach Sweep 2011 will be held Saturday, September 17th from 9am-noon followed by a thank-you picnic for registered volunteers. Visit www.saveourlake.org for more information. The theme this year is "Trash Free Lake." As in the past, we will work with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), www.oceanconservancy.org. Come out and join us!

Email joann@saveourlake.org if you can be a zone captain and bring out a group. Your responsibilities will include gathering volunteers, and attending a zone captain meeting the evening of Thursday, September 1st to pick up supplies and get your clean up zone and information. On Beach Sweep Day you will go out with your group, hand out data cards and trash bags, work in your assigned zone, turn in your group's data cards and fill in your summary card. Then you are all invited to come to celebrate at a free picnic from 11:30am-2:00pm at Pontchartrain Beach or with one of our partners (Friends of LA Wildlife Refuges, Keep Covington Beautiful, Keep Madisonville Beautiful, Keep Mandeville Beautiful).

This year in Orleans and Jefferson Parish, we will be putting storm drain curb markers on storm drains that say "No Dumping, Drains to Lake." We will also clean street curbs, storm drains and ditches as well as some lakefront areas in parishes around Lake Pontchartrain. Please see our [2011 Beach Sweep flyer](#). Please distribute

to office and civic groups, school clubs, scout troops and neighborhood friends. Remember a group can be as small as 3 or as large as you like. RSVP by to JoAnne Burke at (504)836-2238 or joann@saveourlake.org .

5. Light Up A Landmark for Lights On Afterschool Contest Deadline: September 23
Thanks to longtime afterschool champion jcpenny, afterschool programs have another reason to get revved up for Lights On Afterschool this October 20: Tell us what you can light up for your Lights On Afterschool celebration and you may win up to \$5,000! Start by registering for Lights On Afterschool and using the Event Planning Kit Eleven event winners will be selected nationwide: one Megawatt award winner: \$5,000 and ten Spotlight award winners: \$1,000. <http://bit.ly/ouOxGF>

6. The Sally Ride Science Festival at LSU will be on September 24, 2011!
Former NASA Astronaut Wendy Lawrence will talk about her thrilling path to a career in science and her time spent in space during the highly anticipated keynote presentation!

Place: Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA

Date: Saturday, September 24

Time: 11:00am to 4:15pm

Fee: \$20

Presented by ExxonMobil, the Sally Ride Science Festival includes:

- An inspiring talk by a featured speaker
- Discovery workshops for girls, which may be given by local veterinarians, astronomers, microbiologists and more
- Workshops for parents and teachers on ways to support girls' interests in science
- A street fair with booths, hands-on activities, food, and music

While our festivals are primarily focused on encouraging 5th-8th grade girls to pursue their interests in science, everyone is welcome to attend!

Don't miss out—advanced registration required!

Sign up now at <http://www.sallyridefestivals.com> or call us at 1.800.561.5161

<http://www.SallyRideScience.com>

7. Global Green USA's Green School Makeover Competition Deadline: September 30
Would you like to give your school a 'Green School makeover'? If so, Global Green USA wants to hear about it! To enter 'The Global Green USA's Green School Makeover Competition', work on an essay with a teacher, a parent, or your school's PTA. The winner of the contest will win the grand prize, a \$65,000 'Global Green USA Green Makeover' for their school. Global Green USA will also award four finalists \$2,500 to be used on green projects within their school. <http://bit.ly/mxIHiY>

8. Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants Deadline: October 14 or 1,500 applications

The Toolbox for Education Grant Program provides grants of \$2,000 to \$5,000 to public K-12 schools and school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools throughout the U.S. that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Preference is given to funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) and landscaping/clean up projects. The deadline is October 14; however, if 1,500 applications are received before the deadline, the application process will close. <http://bit.ly/orX4N1>

9. Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program Deadline: October 31
Proposals for the following community improvement activities will be considered: repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional housing or community facilities, weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income and/or transitional housing or community facilities; planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities; and development of community parks or green spaces. Grants of up to \$5,000 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. <http://bit.ly/elis5T>

10. On Saturday, November 12, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm in the New Orleans Marriott La Galerie 2 there will be a free MY NASA DATA short-course offered following the NSTA regional conference and we want you to attend! You do not have to register for or attend the conference to attend this workshop and there is no short-course fee. MY NASA DATA (MND) features an online data visualization tool, the Live Access Server, with endless uses in the science classroom. During this three-hour short-course, we will provide content background information on the topics of the atmosphere, radiation budget, clouds, as well as other Earth Science subjects that are covered in the Live Access Server. We will provide strategies for the integration of inquiry and problem based learning exercises/activities. Participating teachers will explore topics in Earth and atmospheric science, educational application of data sets, and use of the Live Access Server (LAS) to access authentic data. Related science content will be presented, followed by practice of on-line lessons featuring current and relevant science data/topics. Participants will also explore how data visualization can be used to enhance their curricula and how students can utilize the real NASA data for inquiry and problem-based learning. http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/NSTA_NOLA.html

For more information on MY NASA DATA, please visit <http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov>. If you register for this short-course, you will get an email follow-up with more specific information about location and what to bring a few weeks prior to the event.

11. NASA is sponsoring the Odyssey of the Mind Long-Term Problem -- Weird Science. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that offers creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Participants apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical

devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. The teams then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state and international levels.

This year's NASA-sponsored problem requires teams to create and present a performance about a team of scientists on an expedition to uncover the cause of mysterious events. The performance must include a technical representation of the mysterious events, a moving backdrop that helps portray traveling and a team-created device that the scientists use on the expedition.

For more information and to find dates for regional competitions, visit <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/>.

12. The National Science Teachers Association/NSTA Press allows anyone-whether they are a member or not-to download a free chapter of any/all of their titles.

Interested in weather related readings? Below are some NSTA publications and the chapter that is available from each of them.

Earth Science Puzzles: Making Meaning From Data

Chapter: How Do We Know What the Climate Was Like in the Past?

http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781935155157.1

Earth Science Success: 50 Lesson Plans for Grades 6–9

Chapter: Meteorology

http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781933531359.4

Even More Everyday Science Mysteries: Stories for Inquiry-Based Science Teaching

Chapter: Here's the Crusher

http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781935155133.7

Brain-Powered Science: Teaching and Learning With Discrepant Events

Chapter: Air Mass Matters

http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781935155102.16

Air, Water, and Weather: Stop Faking It! Finally Understanding Science So You Can Teach It

Chapter: Under Pressure

http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9780873552387.1

13. Lifelines for High School Climate Change Education is a project to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) of high school teachers aimed at implementing effective teaching of climate change in existing courses. PLCs are identifying the best resources to use, comparing course outlines, and are hearing/seeing webinars by climate scientists, both live and as archived presentations. PLCs are having real-time telemeetings, as well as asynchronous communication through shared websites, wikis, and other techniques to achieve the most effective ways to communicate without petroleum-fueled travel. If you are interested in joining a Lifeline PLC, or forming a PLC (becoming a PLC Leader) please visit: <http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/gss/lifelines/>.

14. Year of the Solar System - Resources for Windy Worlds

The YSS topic for August is Windy Worlds. Many of the planets in our solar system have significant atmospheres, but none are breathable to us except our own Earth's. These windy worlds do have some commonalities with our home planet. Like Earth, they have jet streams that can direct the flow of clouds and circulate the atmosphere. The weather systems on other planets can help us to better understand our own world. For resources relating to this month's topic, visit

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss/display.cfm?Year=2011&Month=8&Tab=Educational%20Resources>.

15. ScienceCasts - New Online Video Series from NASA (Thursdays at 4 p.m. ET)

NASA's new video series offers the public a fast and fun way to learn about scientific discoveries and facts about Earth, the solar system and beyond. Called ScienceCasts, the videos are created by astrophysicists and a team of agency narrators and videographers. The videos are posted online every Thursday afternoon at approximately 4 p.m.

<http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/sciencecasts/>

The STS-134 astronaut video is available.

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html>

In the Search Engine – type in “STS-134” (you must include the “-“). Take a look at the 3rd video “Mission Accomplished.”

16. Grd 6-12 Project SPECTRA! is a science and engineering program focusing on how light is used to explore the Solar System. Project SPECTRA! emphasizes hands-on activities, like building a spectrograph, as well as the use of real data to solve scientific questions. Lessons are available for middle school students, which can be easily adapted for use with high school or elementary students as well. Each lesson has a front page listing national standards in science and mathematics, prior knowledge required, materials, and time needed to complete the lesson.

<http://lasp.colorado.edu/spectra/>

17. Calendar

September 5: Deadline for High School Students to enter the SPHERES Zero Robotics Challenge. Please visit: <http://zerorobotics.mit.edu/>

September 16: Deadline to apply for Quality Science and Math Grants

<http://www.seasystem.net/cgi-bin/qsm/>

September 16: Deadline to apply for the \$100 Award Studying Insects, Spiders and Arthropods. Please visit: <http://www.entfdn.org/scienceprojectcontest.htm>

September 24: National Estuaries Day

<http://www.estuaries.org/national-estuariesday.html> .

September 24: Sally Ride Festival presented by ExxonMobil @ LSU
<http://www.sallyridefestivals.com>

October 1: Deadline for Grade K-5 teachers to apply for the Toshiba America Foundation Grant. <http://www.toshiba.com/taf>

October 5: 4-H National Youth Day.
<http://www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/nysdhome.aspx>

October 9 – 15: Earth Science Week Contests for students.
<http://www.earthsciweek.org>

October 4 – 10: World Space Week. <http://www.worldspaceweek.org>

October 15: Deadline for K-12 Educators to apply for the NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Project Fellowships. <http://www.us-satellite.net/nasa/endeavor/index.cfm>

October 19-21: LATM Conference Monroe www.lamath.org

October 16-22 National Chemistry Week

October 23 Mole Day <http://www.moleday.org/>

November 10-12: NSTA New Orleans Area Conference
<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2011new/?lid=tnav>

November 11 NESTA Workshop New Orleans NSTA
https://www.nestanet.org/cms/sites/default/files/documents/NESTA_Workshops_Fall_2011_NSTA.pdf

November 12 free MY NASA DATA workshop New Orleans
http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/NSTA_NOLA.html