

Vermont DOE Science Newsletter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **NECAP Science Release Materials**
2. **Fall Network Meetings**
3. **VT Fest and Vermont Science Teachers' Association Conference**
4. **Emerging Science Video Contest**
5. **VSTA Membership**
5. **FREE—FREE—FREE Textbooks for AP Science Courses**
6. **VSTA Membership**
7. **ECHO Aquarium and Lake Center--Turtle Beach Clean-up Event!**
8. **Riverdeep Learning Village—An Online Resource for Classroom Materials**
9. **NASA Educational Materials**
10. **K-12: LearningScience.org has features you will want to try**
11. **K-12: Online Earth Science resource**
12. **Einstein Fellowship - Application Now Open!**
13. **Toshiba Grant Opportunity**
14. **Regional NSTA Conference Opportunities**
15. **K-12: National Chemistry Week**
16. **K-12: 2009 is the Year of Science**
17. **K-12: Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Florida, summer 2009**
18. **Gr 6-8: Create "Green Solutions" in National Middle School Sustainability Challenge**
19. **Gr 9-12: Publication possibilities for your students**

See All These Items Below...

CURRENT NEWS

1. **NECAP Science Release Materials**

The Vermont NECAP Science Release materials are now available on the Department of Education website. Follow this address to access the 17 release items and student sample work. The release material includes 9 multiple choice items, 1 constructed response item and 7 Inquiry Task items for use in your classroom.

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/science/necap_science.html

2. **Fall Network Meetings**

The Fall Science Network Meetings are available throughout the state...The discussions at K-4, 5-8 and 9-12 will include interpretation and group discussion of NECAP Science results and sharing of Earth Science content tasks for all grade levels.

Schedule: Nov 3—Colchester, Hampton Inn

Nov 11—Montpelier, Capitol Plaza

Nov 21—Rutland, Holiday Inn

To Register go to... <http://creator.zoho.com/rosewheeler/form/6/>

3. **VT Fest and Vermont Science Teachers' Association Conference**

This year your Vermont Science Teachers' Association (VSTA) is joining with Vita Learn for a cooperative effort in a collaborative annual conference. The VT-Fest Conference—featuring science presenters, as well as info technology presenters, will be held from November 5-7 at the Killington Resort, Killington, VT. ON Thursday,

November 6, several science presenters will be offering workshops. Go to this site to see the selections and to register. <http://homepage.vita-learn.org/Pages/VtFest08/index>

4. Emerging Science Video Contest

Do you have a lot of ENERGY??

Enter Vermont Public Television's *Emerging Science* Video Contest!

Win one of three iPod Shuffles!

Show your creativity and understanding of energy by creating a video to demonstrate BASIC ideas in ENERGY. Video themes could include, but are not limited to: energy production, heat, fuel, the sun, energy transfer, fossil fuels, energy alternatives and their effect on living organisms.

Be CREATIVE. Your video could feature you alone or with others and/or could illustrate energy science concepts using:

Lab Demos	Music	Song
Dance	Animation	Humor
Rap	Slam Poetry	Imagination!

Entries will be rated and three winners will be selected by a panel of judges, based on content and originality. Winning videos will be used online to promote the second season of VPT's new science series, *Emerging Science*, scheduled to premiere this winter. Each winner will receive an iPod Shuffle!

Entry Information

- Deadline: Dec. 1, 2008 (entries must be postmarked on or before Dec. 1)
- Video Length: Up to 3 minutes (credits may extend past 3 minutes)
- Submission format: DVD
- Mail entries to: Emerging Science Video Competition
Vermont Public Television
204 Ethan Allen Ave.
Colchester, VT 05446

For more information about *Emerging Science* visit this website....

<http://www.vpt.org/programs/emergingscience.html>

VERMONT DOINGS

5. FREE—FREE—FREE Textbooks for AP Science Courses

If you are interested in obtaining a class set of free AP Science Course textbooks, please email me (Gail Hall gail.hall@state.vt.us) and put in your request. The books are located at St Johnsburry Academy and we would have to make arrangements for them to be picked up there. They will be distributed on a 'first come—first served' basis. A great opportunity!!!

6. VSTA Membership

NOW is an opportunity for you to join your Vermont science teaching colleagues as members of the Vermont Science Teachers' Association. Lots of sharings and great ideas!!! Check out the website and sample of the latest Newsletter.

<http://www.uvm.edu/vsta/>

7. ECHO Aquarium and Lake Center--Turtle Beach Clean-up Event!

What: Annual Autumn Turtle Beach Clean-up and Beach Party

When: Saturday, October 25, 2008,

Rain Date: Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Where: Start at North Hero State Park (NHSP).

Who: Anyone! Families welcome.

Time: 10:00 a.m. start. You can come later, but be sure to get to North Hero State Park (NHSP) by 12:30 p.m., to meet the afternoon group

<http://www.echovermont.org/programs/update.html#article1>

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

8. Riverdeep Learning Village—An Online Resource for Classroom Materials

Visit a website with a number of science resources—lessons, units, assessment tasks (including performance assessments). Materials from Science Network Meetings are also included in the ‘Resources’ section. Go to the website below and use the following password and user name for read-only access and download any of these materials.

Username—**vt.teacher** Password—**vermont**

9. NASA Educational Materials

The NASA Website has a wealth of educational materials for FREE! Go to this site and take a look. <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html>

10. K-12: LearningScience.org has features you will want to try

<http://www.learningscience.org/index.htm>

Using the National Science Education Standards (NRC, 1996) as their framework, the webmasters at this site present high-quality FREE science interactive web sites and resources from around the world for educators in for K-12 schools.

Their resources are free, and always available, and feature sites in the following areas

*Science as Inquiry *Physical Science *Life Science *Earth and Space
*Science and Tech *Science and Society *Nature of Science

They also have links to “Tools to Do Science” (create a graph, use a timer, print a ruler or graph paper), “Cool Learning Tools for Math” (share these with your math colleagues), “Learning Tool of the Year” (which highlights the best science interactive site from the previous year), and “Education Hall of Fame” (featuring web sites they consider to be the best for science education).

11. K-12: Online Earth Science resource

I found this website for teachers and student: <http://www.divediscover.whoj.edu/> . It teaches about deep ocean exploration, thermal vent ecology, and plate tectonics. Enjoy

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

12. Einstein Fellowship - Application Now Open!

This is a great opportunity for any teachers who are interested. The year in D.C. is fascinating and enlightening! Go for it!! (GGH)

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@trianglecoalition.org.

13. Toshiba Grant Opportunity

You can jumpstart your students' imaginations by having them compete in the [ExploraVision Awards competition](#). Sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, the ExploraVision competition gives students in grades K – 12 the chance to create their own visions of the future.

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Web Seminar Series

On Thursday, November 5 there will be a Web Seminar focusing on the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards program. Now in its 17th year, ExploraVision encourages K-12 students of all interest, skill and ability levels to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. Each Web Seminar will include information and resources that will help K-12 teachers get their students involved and succeed in the ExploraVision program. Presenters are ExploraVision Ambassadors, teachers who have sponsored regional and national winning teams and have had success in motivating and guiding multiple student teams in the past several years. During these live Web Seminars, presenters will share their ExploraVision experiences and answer questions live from participants.

http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/symposia_seminars/ExploraVision/webseminar.aspx

14. Regional NSTA Conference Opportunities

Are you considering attending the fall 2008 NSTA Area Conferences on Science Education in Cincinnati? Perhaps you are already registered to attend, but wonder what to expect when you get there? Well, wonder no more. Join us for a special Web Seminar designed to help educators maximize their NSTA Conference experience.

In this seminar participants will learn information about the NSTA Area Conferences taking place in (Charlotte, Portland, and) Cincinnati (October, November, and) December 2008, respectively. Specifically, topics like the exhibit hall, different types of sessions, networking, and resources available at the conference, will be discussed. The presenters will also talk about tools participants can use before the conference to better prepare for the event. This Web seminar is designed for educators of grades K-12.

Register right away; a few seats are still available.

The Archive of this web seminar and the presenters' PowerPoint presentation will be available on this web page. Learn more about the features of the Web Seminar and read answers to frequently asked questions from participants.

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/?lid=tnavhp>

**15. K-12: National Chemistry Week: 2008 Theme: "Having a Ball with Chemistry"
October 19 – 25th, 2008**

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is a community-based annual event that unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. <http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content>

16. K-12: 2009 is the Year of Science

More than 350 organizations are shining the national spotlight on science in 2009, by celebrating the question: How Do We Know What We Know? Find out how you can participate in the Year of Science 2009 (YoS09) by visiting its web site, listed below.

<http://www.yearofscience2009.org>

17. K-12: Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Florida, summer 2009

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

OR

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

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.

18. Gr 6-8: Create "Green Solutions" in National Middle School Sustainability Challenge

<http://www.nsta.org/about/pressroom.aspx?id=55260>

and/or

<http://www.wecanchange.com>

This challenge is the first and only national K–12 sustainability education initiative aligned to education standards and uniquely tailored to match students' growing comprehension abilities throughout their school-aged years.

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) have partnered on this unprecedented initiative to educate, empower and engage students, teachers and communities to become "Agents of Change" in improving their community. Student teams, with the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education.

The mentors of the first 100 teams to register and complete a project for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge will receive an award-winning Planet Earth series DVD set.

Submissions from middle school students will be accepted through March 15, 2009. The initiative expands to elementary schools in 2009 and to high schools in 2010.

19. Gr 9-12: Publication possibilities for your students

<http://www.jemergingscientists.org/>

Very recently The Journal of Emerging Scientists (The JES) was formed in the hopes of organizing scientific study amongst high school students.

The editors are attempting to give students an opportunity for their work to be recognized at an early stage in their career. By submitting articles to The JES, students will have the chance to share their work with other high school scientists as well as learn more about the scientific process.

The JES will be accepting and publishing scientific articles on original student research and written by students of high school age from all disciplines of science. Please help to generate interest in the organization; for now they plan to accept articles from any student that wishes to submit one. For further information on format and how to submit articles please visit the website.

CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES/DEADLINES

2008

October 19 – 25: National Chemistry Week

<http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content>

October 23: Early Childhood: New Teacher Workshop at COSI

<http://www.cosi.org/educators/professional-development/workshops-pre-school/>

October 24: IGES 13th Annual Art Contest for Children

<http://www.strategies.org/ArtContest>

October 25: 2008 Induction Ceremony at National Gallery for America's Young Inventors <http://www.nmoe.org>

October 25: ECHO Aquarium and Lake Center—Turtle Beach Clean up Event!

<http://www.echovermont.org/programs/update.html#article1>

October 29: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears: Physical Science from the Poles: <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

October 31: Deadline to apply for The Mickelson Exxon Mobil Teachers Academy

<http://www.sendmyteacher.com>

November 3: Colchester Science Network Meeting
<http://creator.zoho.com/rosewheeler/form/6/> for registration

November 5: Toshiba Grant Online Seminar
http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/symposia_seminars/ExploraVision/webseminar.aspx

November 5-7: VT Fest and VSTA Conference, Killington, VT
<http://homepage.vita-learn.org/Pages/VtFest08/index> for registration

November 11: Montpelier Science Network Meeting
<http://creator.zoho.com/rosewheeler/form/6/> for registration

November 13: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Series:
Energy and the Polar Environment: :
<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

November 21: Rutland Science Network Meeting
<http://creator.zoho.com/rosewheeler/form/6/> for registration

December 1, 2008: Emerging Science Energy video Contest deadline.
<http://www.vpt.org/programs/emergingscience.html>

December 9: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Chemistry Comes Alive: III—Water
<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

2009

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2009: The Year of Science
<http://www.yearofscience2009.org>

January 15: Deadline for International Children's Painting Competition (Environment)
http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=competitions&comp=int_comp&int_comp=18th

January 21: Deadline to apply for Toyota Tapestry grants
<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/guidelines.htm>

February 12: Charles Darwin Bicentennial Day. For more information, please visit:
<http://darwinday.org/englishL/assistevent/index.html>

March 15: Deadline to submit "Green Solutions" in Siemens Sustainability Challenge (gr
6-8) <http://www.wecanchange.com>
