

VSTA Newsletter

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Vermont Science Teachers Association/ <http://www.uvm.edu/vsta/>
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Greetings Fellow Science Teachers,

As I write this, a blizzard is passing through the middle of the country, yet we sit here under bluebird skies. I find weekends are a time to catch up with some of what life throws my way and to reflect on the successes and challenges in my current classroom.

As a passionate believer in the value of science learning at all grade levels, I contend that one of the best ways to encourage our students is to let them see our own excitement and curiosity about the world around us. As we ask questions, wonder, and model ways to seek answers, we share a personal part of ourselves for students to connect with. Children need to understand that, although we might know more than they do, we don't have all the answers. One of the most valuable things we can impart to our students is how to look for answers to the questions we might have.

Perhaps it is because I am in Kindergarten that I notice how quickly children start sounding and behaving like the teacher. Listening to their conversations with peers and other adults gives me an insight into what they think is important. When I hear a child say, "I wonder...." in conversation, I feel I have something to celebrate. I believe he/she is on his/her way to becoming a life long learner. It is our challenge to maintain that curiosity, to keep children thinking, to keep them wondering.

As you continue to look for answers around science teaching, I hope you will plan to attend our conference on March 31st at the Stoweflake (see next page). It offers something for everyone who is looking for more ways to reach more students...a place to find some answers.

And finally, thanks to all of you for what you do each and every day to promote a love of learning in the young people of Vermont.

Ellen Sulek, VSTA President

Vermont Science Teachers' Annual Conference

Vermont Science Teachers' Association and
The Vermont Department of Education are sponsoring,
A Science & Literacy Conference:

Dr. Michael Klentschy



Communication for 21st Century Science Learning

Featuring Dr. Michael Klentschy, renowned author and science notebook advocate for successful science learning of ALL students, as the keynote speaker and presenter.



- Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010
- Place: Stoweflake Inn, Stowe, VT
- Time: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Cost: \$120.00

Registration fee includes the conference, a year's membership to VSTA, breakfast, lunch plus free access to the pool and sauna for all conference attendees after 3:00 PM!

Registration now available at this website.

http://creator.zoho.com/doi_user/vt-science-teachers-association-annual-conference/#

Workshops will address 21st Century communication in science for ALL students through a variety of instructional strategies:

- *Making Meaning of Science—Dr. Klentschy (K-4 and 5-12 sessions)*
- *Science When? All Day Long! —Virginia Grims (K-4)*
- *Motion and Design—Science and Technology for Children Program (4-5)*
- *NASA Explorer School Opportunities—Orleans ES Educators (K-6)*
- *STEM: Everest Trek—Tammy Russell & Trudy Fadden (5-8)*
- *Do Heavier Objects Drop Faster? --Paul Fitzgerald (5-8)*
- *Wind Works: An Alternative Energy Curriculum—VEEP (5-12)*
- *Satellites, Weather and Climate (SWAC) Curriculum Development—Professor Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux (UVM) (6-12)*
- *21st Century Lab Reports—Tom and Linda McSweeney (9-12)*
- *Listening to Jupiter—Harvey Nystrom & Michael Norkun (9-12)*