"Doing your own thing" is a generous act. Being gifted creates obligations, which means you owe the world your best effort at the work you love. You too are a natural resource.

~Barbara Sher (American business owner, career counselor, author)

DEADLINES & UPDATES
A mini-FoG will be sent when the following webinars have been scheduled:
- STISETS (waiting for test database to be updated)
- Multicultural Education
- Affective Needs-Bibliotherapy & Cinematherapy
- Affective Needs-Career Exploration
- Using technology to Meet the Needs of Gifted Learners
- Meeting the Learning Style Needs of Gifted Learners

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The annual NAGC conference starts on November 3, 2011, and ends November 6, 2011, in New Orleans, LA. Even if you cannot be there in person, NAGC has The Virtual Conference. 
http://www.nagc.org/virtualconvention.aspx

About the NAGC Virtual Convention
- For selected sessions on Saturday, November 5
- Live sessions begin at 7:30 AM Central Time and end at 4:00 PM Central Time
- Includes 21 sessions
- Register online ONLY
- Space is limited and registration will close when we reach capacity.
- Cost: $79 NAGC Members/$129 Nonmembers for live access; $199 NAGC Members/$299* Nonmembers for live access + six-month archive access of all recorded Convention sessions (available: mid December - June 30, 2012)
- Site licenses include six-month archive access of all recorded Convention sessions and are available for just $399. (http://www.nagc.org/wowsitelistlicense.aspx)
- No refunds.
- Have questions? Contact NAGC. (virtual@nagc.org)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Searchable Grant Database at Grants4Teachers 
http://www.grants4teachers.com/
A free web site to help you search for grants. Type your e-mail, state, category (pop-up window), and institution (Public Schools) to search for grants that you can write. I search through the technology database for Alabama and found 84 possible grants. These grants ranged from $500 – more money that we have ever seen! Categories include Afterschool, Arts, At Risk/Character, Community Involvement, Disabilities, Early Childhood, General Education, Health/Physical Education, Science/Environmental, Special Education, and Technology.

CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES
Kids’ Science Challenge
Your students could create a challenge for a scientist or engineer to solve! This contest started on October 1, 2011 but the deadline to submit a challenge is February 29, 2012 at 11:59 PM EST. A student must submit one Entry Idea, Question or Problem, explaining and/or demonstrating one of the Scientific Topics below, along with answers to questions explaining how the entrant developed the idea for the Entry. Students may enter in more than one scientific topic, but they must complete and submit a new entry application for each topic.

Contest Topics:
- Afterschool
- Arts
- At Risk/Character
- Community Involvement
- Disabilities
- Early Childhood
- General Education
- Health/Physical Education
- Science/Environmental
- Special Education
- Technology
Web 2.0 - TechNews

Julie Altmark, Hoover City Schools, sent a wonderful reminder about Tamara Fisher’s blog - Unwrapping the Gifted. http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted/

This month’s blog talks about her independent study class with students and how she has used Symbaloo (http://www.symbaloo.com) to bookmark the web sites. Symbaloo is FREE, easy to use, colorful, and is similar to LiveBinders. It is an online bookmark for your links.

Mystery QR Code
Are you curious? Like to explore? Scan this code to see where it will take you!

RESOURCES

Comparing Textbooks, Wikipedia, and Primary Source Documents

Richard Byrne, author of the Freetech4teachers.com blog, has shared one of his excellent lessons for teachers to use. This is an excellent lesson to have students think critically about their sources for information and research. Students compare the information of the textbook to the Wikipedia page. Then students must click on links at the bottom of the Wikipedia page to locate Primary Source documents. This lesson can be used with any topic. Instead of three topics that he used in his lesson, you could start with one topic. The topic needs to be specific. For example you would not assign Oil Spills, but narrow the subject to Gulf Coast Oil Spill. How can you use this lesson in your concept-based curriculum units?

Comparing Sources by Richard Byrne

1. Briefly summarize the Wikipedia articles.

2. Compare the Wikipedia articles to those passages in the book that address the same topics (pages 382 - 387). Which articles seem more accurate? Which seem more detailed? Why?

3. Using the links provided at the end of the Wikipedia articles or through a web search, locate at least one primary source on each topic. What insight could a reader gain from those primary sources that he or she could not gain from the textbook or Wikipedia article?

4. Now locate one secondary source (article, video, book) about each of the three topics. Does that source present the story of each topic differently than the previous sources you read? If so, how? Can you identify any errors, omissions, or weaknesses in the secondary sources? If so, explain.

C-Span’s Timely Teachable Videos


This web site has the latest videos of current events and issues. Scroll through this page and you will find a wealth of primary source information and documents, lessons, and free resources.

National Museum of American History


This is a wonderful blog dated Oct 25, 2011. You never know what you will find unless you open your eyes and ask questions. This blog starts with the following paragraph:

“An experimental telegraph, a unique device used to spread seeds, an object named the "Greffuhle," a list of all the places where one man traveled while serving in the Civil War—what do all these objects from the museum's collections have in common?”

We could easily answer this question for you but where’s the fun in that? To find the answer to this question, go to this blog using the provided link.