DEADLINES & UPDATES

- October 21, 2011 is the last date to submit the Gifted Tracking Log. This must be submitted through STISETS.
- October 21, 2011 is the last date for Enrichment Systems to submit their Enrichment Child Count.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

American History Road Show – Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Location: Opelika Middle School Auditorium
Trainer: NMAH Staff
Time: 8:00 – 11:00 for Secondary Teachers
12:30 – 3:30 for Elementary Teachers
Prerequisite: N/A
Participant Group: K-12 Teachers, Pre-Service Teachers
Session Maximum: 150 per session
STIPD: EARIC571

Trainers will provide an interactive, engaging presentation modeling activities, focusing on primary source analysis and demonstrating online resources from NMAH. The presentation for social studies teachers will include video segments that facilitate museum engagement, such as behind-the-scenes exhibition tours. Participants will receive classroom materials, links to web sites and other teaching tools.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Pets in the Classroom

If you are allowed to have small pets in the classroom, check out this web site that offers grants for teachers Pre-K through 6th grade. PETCO and PETSMART offer grants for Hamsters, Guinea Pigs, Hermit Crabs, Fish, Bearded Dragons and Leopard Geckos. If you want a pet that is not listed above, you can apply for the Pets in the Classroom Rebate Grant. For more information and grant or rebate applications, check out the web site.

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF)
http://www.lowes.com/cd_Corporate+Citizenship_674540029_

Large Toolbox grants from $5,000 to $25,000 for schools or districts
DEADLINE: February 10, 2012

FIELD STUDY EXPERIENCES

The purpose of the field study experience is to enhance and enrich the content and skills studied. The trip becomes an embedded activity within the unit.

This month’s featured trip is a hike around the school. Focus questions could include:

- How is the environment changing with the seasons?
- How can you tell if animals live in this environment?
- Can the habitat support animal life? How do you know?
- How can you improve the habitat to support animals, including butterflies and birds?
Web 2.0 - TechNews

Tired of PowerPoints. Try Prezi!
This was the type of presentation Shirley used during regional trainings. Prezi
http://prezi.com

If trying to set up a presentation on a blank screen seems daunting, try Ahead. This online presentation site has slides for you to place items that can be rotated, zoomed in and out, or shown all at once. There’s organization to this site! http://ahead.com/

This can begin the process to create outdoor classrooms on your school grounds, which is service learning. These classrooms can be as simple as a bench in the shade to observe the habitat to elaborate ponds, butterfly gardens, and square foot vegetable gardening. What other outdoor classrooms can you and your students imagine? Check out the Lowe’s grants that could fund your outdoor garden.

As with any field trip experience, how have you planned for the before, during, and after experiences to further the studies of the concept-based curriculum? What Essential Understandings will students discover through Essential Questions and/or Scaffolded Questions as they experience the field study?

CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES

REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE from APTPLUS

Students Using Real Tools to Solve Real Problems
in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

The REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE is first and foremost an opportunity for students to solve real world problems using 21st century skills. It is a competition that will challenge their critical-thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration and problem-solving abilities using professional tools they’ve never had before. The challenge is designed by professionals from industry, academia, and government. Students first compete in a state-level Lt. Governor’s Cup and winners are announced at a state awards ceremony. Each state’s winning team is eligible to compete at the national challenge event in Washington, D.C. where solutions to the national challenge are presented to a panel of judges and a national winner is chosen. Winners will receive prizes, awards, and recognition from leaders in government, industry, and higher education.

Download the Real World Design Challenge One Page PDF

This competition personifies STEM. It breathes life into science, technology, engineering and math classroom concepts and principles to solve real world problems of the workplace. Student teams in grades 9-12 contribute innovative solutions to real industry design problems. These teams are built around real industry roles such as project manager, scientist, engineer, and community relations and marketing. The Challenge problem is defined by industry which donates one million dollars in professional engineering software to each participating teacher. Instructor led training and web-based training is provided by Design and Global Engineering. Mentors are provided by Federal Laboratories & Centers, industry, and higher education. This competition aligns secondary education with technical workforce needs thus addressing workforce development in the global marketplace. Alabama students should and can provide the 21st century workforce needed to compete in an ever-growing, global economic market.

DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER STUDENTS A CHANCE TO LEARN, TO GROW, AND TO SUCCEED IN A WAY THEY’VE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED!

Click here to sign up, access instructions and information, and Challenge completion dates:
http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/

The contact person for Alabama participation is:
Brenda Terry, AMSTEC Executive Director and RWDC State Coordinator
Email contact: Brenda.terry@uah.edu
Phone contact: 256-824-2357 (office) 256-227-4188 (cell)

PERENNIAL MATH

Perennial Math would like to welcome you to our online competition for grades 4-8. Your students can participate at either a team level or individual student level by registering on www.perennialmath.com. Don’t worry if you cannot access the internet, you can always print and administer the tests to log in your students’ scores later.

The competition consists of 5 tests each year (November-March). Each test contains 5 questions that get progressively harder. The tests must be completed in 30 minutes. All students receive a certificate of participation and your team winner will receive a gold medal. Additional awards include plaques for teams who score in the top 10% and dog tags for each student who scores in the top 10% at each grade level. Students who get a perfect score on the test-and exceptional teams can have their name scrolling on our wall of fame.
Why should you join? Because our system saves you time from grading and entering scores, gives your students instant feedback on how they did, and our super cool awards make every mathlete feel proud! Please feel free to contact us for additional information.

P.O. Box 16002
Huntsville, AL 35802
1-888-835-2366

RESOURCES

C-SPAN’s New Electoral College Map Poster (free)
http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Special-Offers.aspx

From C-SPAN: “This large wall poster has been updated based on the 2010 census and includes information about the Electoral College, historical election results, and key dates leading up to the 2012 presidential election that can jumpstart a variety of lessons and fit a wide range of subject matters and grade levels.

Create Speaking Avatars with Voki
http://www.voki.com/
Create an avatar that speaks with your voice. This free web site allows you to create an avatar that can be placed on your web site. Customize the appearance and background. Upload your voice by computer microphone or phone. Then post to your class web site—What would your web site say to visitors?

QR CODES
http://www.beqrious.com/generator
Have you joined the QR generation? Have you been using codes in your classroom or seen them in magazines and stores? Even the little country store, Cracker Barrel, uses QR codes to direct customers to their FaceBook page. This web site allows images to be embedded into the code! Check out this code and see where it takes you!

WANTED: Good Concept-Based Curriculum Units
We will continue to run this “advertisement” in each FoG as a reminder that we would like to have a “library” of good concept-based units on the ALEX Gifted Site. E-mail your best Concept-based curriculum units to Nancy and Shirley to add to the “library” of units. The units will be transferred into the unit template and may include some revisions. We can work smarter and not harder if we share our units instead of recreating the wheel every time.

WANTED: Suggestions, Ideas, Tips
Send us your best classroom tips, ideas and suggestions for web sites, technology uses, field experiences, differentiated lessons for general education teachers, centers shared with classroom teachers, etc., to share with your colleagues across the state. Let’s all work smarter and not harder!