



Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

April 2011

A message from Kelly...

This month is full of activities:

- Earth Day
- National Youth Sports Safety Month
- National Public Health Week
- Easter
- Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day

Know that I am here for you! Be sure to check our site regularly, <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/>, to discover information, updates, and special promotions.



Teacher Talk April Episode

Summer Reading Challenge

A look at various summer reading programs including Find A Book Florida and an interview with Dr. Malbert Smith. Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/tta.asp> to view past episodes!



Curriculum Corner

Just for Teachers FLDOE Social Media

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/EducationFL>

Twitter – <http://www.twitter.com/teachersfl>

Blog – <http://www.teachersfl.wordpress.com>

A+ For Teachers At Downtown Disney Essay Contest

The Downtown Disney Resort Area Hotels in Orlando, Fla., are inviting students in grades one through 12 across the United States to honor deserving teachers by nominating them for the third annual **A+ For Teachers at Downtown Disney** essay contest. The contest runs through April 15, 2011. Students can nominate their favorite teacher by writing a brief essay and submitting it via the hotels' website at <http://www.downtowndisneyhotels.com>. The essay should explain how the teacher has made a difference in the student's life and will be judged on its relevance to theme, creativity, originality, and the merit of the teacher's accomplishments as outlined in the essay. For more information on the **A+ For Teachers at Downtown Disney** contest, visit <http://www.downtowndisneyhotels.com>.

ReadMobile Florida Tour

The Pearson Foundation's We Give Books Readmobile is driving across Florida on a 30-school whistle-stop tour, encouraging schools and communities to celebrate the power of reading and giving. The tour began in Jacksonville on February 28th, and different locations will be visited during the month of March. The We Give Books Readmobile will stop at local schools to host reading events and creative projects with school children. In partnership with United Way Florida, the Pearson Foundation will also be stopping at local community centers. Thousands of books will be given away state-wide to children and families this spring, and the Pearson Foundation is encouraging young people and adults to come together at We Give Books to help others in the process. To learn more about We Give Books Readmobile, visit <http://www.wegivebooks.org/readmobile>

Free Interactive Vocabulary Site

A free, interactive online resource that features Latin & Greek root-based activities at grade levels is available at <http://www.myvocabulary.com>. The site includes ESL/LEP/ELL lesson plans with audio, 390 word lists for required reading, daily puzzles, SAT and ACT test prep and assessment, worksheets, and 80+ calendar/themed content features. Vocabulary from 135 novels, with additional word puzzles assist teachers and students. All features are printable and answers can be e-mailed.

Teacher Discounts

Wet 'N Wild Teacher and Staff Appreciation Pass

Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/discounts.asp> for a downloadable form.



Teacher Appreciation Hotel Special

Wyndham Hotel Tampa offers \$79 per night with Breakfast Buffet for two guests (breakfast is a \$30 value). Rate offered from April 1st to August 15th 2011. Follow this link to make a reservation:

<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/TPAWH/main.wnt?usr=&gue=&lnm=&pro=TPAWH&cor=44907497&cha=wyndhamcorp&ref=251111213>

Summer Vacation Special from Preferred Hotel Group

From June 1 through September 30, 2011, you'll enjoy at least 20 percent off our best available summer rates, plus additional benefits and amenities unique to each hotel, such as free breakfast, massages, dining discounts, and even kite-boarding lessons.

<http://phgoffers.com/participatingHotels.aspx?id=539>

SeaWorld's Teacher Study Pass allows unlimited admission to SeaWorld Orlando now through 12/31/2011. Now through May 31, teachers can purchase up to six single-day tickets at \$20 off sharing the SeaWorld Orlando fun with family and friends. More details can be found at <http://www.SeaWorldOrlandoTeachers.com>.

Teacher Treasures

"I have been a teacher in Broward County for 13 years, with the last five at Indian Trace Elementary. I am proud to be the 5th grade gifted-high achiever teacher. Every day my students accomplish the amazing, from being 1st in the nation out of 70,000 teams in First in Math, to being named a Master classroom with Renaissance Learning for their extraordinary gains with Accelerated Reader. I was privileged to be named a finalist for Broward County Teacher of the Year as the only elementary school teacher. I am pleased to have won this weekend getaway. I am looking forward to enjoying a weekend away, after FCAT of course! Thank You, Marc." – **Marc Horowitz**



Our March giveaway for one, two-night stay for four to Inn on Fifth and four tickets to Wet-n-Wild was won by **Patricia Thrailkill**, a Reading Coach at Walker Middle School in Orlando. With such a variety of offerings, we will clear all entry forms on the day of the drawings. Our submission form will reopen on the first of each month.

There will be 2 April Giveaways: *TradeWinds Island Resorts* and *Innisbrook Resort*. Enter today at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.



Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Fifth Grade Essay Contest

Title: "At home, at school, at play; let safety lead the way"

Each participating school must select one winner. The winning essay must be submitted to the contest coordinator, Mrs. Patricia Rutherford, by Friday, April 22, 2011. A certificate of participation will be given to all of the school winners. For more information and contest rules, visit the following site: <http://www.fmcdf.org/contests.htm>.

2011 Endangered Species Day Youth Art Contest

The national Endangered Species Day Youth Art contest provides young people with an opportunity to learn about endangered species and express their knowledge and support through artwork. The art contest is an integral part of the sixth annual national Endangered Species Day, celebrated on May 20, 2011. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2011. Teachers can include the Endangered Species Day Youth Art Contest as a featured activity for Youth Art Month in March 2011. For more information visit <http://www.stopextinction.org/esd/194-esd-art.html>.

Education News

***To the Core* Podcast Features Teacher of the Year**

The newest segment of *To the Core*, an education related podcast series hosted by Florida Teacher of the Year Cheryl Conley is now available on iTunesU. This podcast features an insider's view of the Department of Education's What's Working Workshops, a series of in-depth meetings hosted by the Florida State Board of Education. The workshops provided an opportunity for education stakeholders to interact and dialogue with nationally-recognized education leaders on specific topics that support effective teaching and school leadership. Five workshops were held from September through October 2010 and covered such topics as Value Added Measures, Teacher Evaluations, and Turning Around Low Performing Schools. The podcasts are housed on iTunesU which provides free multimedia content to schools, parents, students, administrators and teachers both in Florida and around the world. To download the *To the Core* podcast, visit <http://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/to-the-core/id399604694>.



Teacher Talk Show: Teacher Appreciation Episode

Nearly 100 Florida educators were surprised in a big way on Feb. 18, 2011, at the Walt Disney World Saratoga Springs Resort. Teachers thought they were attending a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) resources workshop and ended up with not only the training hosted by Disney Youth Education Series, but also free educational products donated by nearly 20 vendors from throughout the country. Themed as an “Oprah-Style” give-away, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) teamed up with Walt Disney World to turn the monthly “Teacher Talk” television show into a teacher appreciation extravaganza which featured Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith, DOE’s teacher liaison Kelly Seay, and Disney’s Imagineers. The “Teacher Talk” show aired on March 8, 2011, through local channels and will also be webcast on the DOE website at <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/ta.asp>.



Many thanks to all of our Presenters: Polyvision, Follett Software, Explore Learning, 1105 Media (FETC), SP Controls, Reading Plus, Ellison, Kagan, Novachi, Tekboard, Renaissance Learning, ASC Direct, Award Publishing, GradeCam, Frog Publications, Britannica digital Learning, Brainchild, RM Education, and Disney Youth Education Series. A special thank you goes out to Disney World Orlando, the Florida Knowledge Network, and the Florida Education Foundation! Thank you Jennifer Womble for the pictures!