



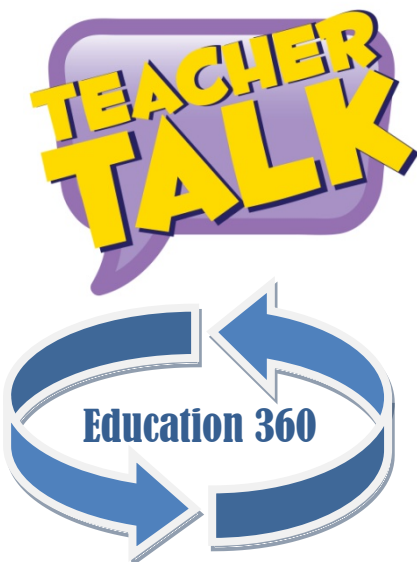
Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

December 2011

Communication from Commissioner Robinson...

Thank you to all who replied to our survey with valuable feedback on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver survey. The Department submitted Florida's flexibility request for the ESEA, commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) last month. The Sunshine State is one of several states that submitted an application that centers on four major principles for reform, including college and career readiness, accountability, effective instruction and reducing and removing burdensome state rules and regulations. The U.S. Department of Education will notify states that submit flexibility requests as early as January 2012 on the status of their submissions. Florida's request and related materials are available at <http://www.fldoe.org/esea>. For additional information on ESEA, visit the U.S. Department of Education website at <http://www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility>. Know that I am here for you and be sure to check our site regularly at <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/> to discover information, updates, and special promotions.



Teacher Talk December Episode

STEM: *Teachers After Dark*

A live audience show with 200 teachers spending the night at Busch Gardens Tampa and SeaWorld Orlando.

The Florida Department of Education has a video series called Education 360 which provides quick snapshots about important education reform efforts currently underway in the Sunshine State. View them all at

<http://www.fldoe.org/ARRA/RacetoptheTop.asp> or on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/educationfl>.

Curriculum Corner



Just for Teachers FLDOE Social Media

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=726112111#!/EducationFL>

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

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

YouTube – <http://www.youtube.com/educationfl>

Shutterfly - <http://floridadepartmentofeducation.shutterfly.com/>

Flickr – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/educationfl>

Summer 2012 Professional Development at Florida State University

Science teachers in grades 4-12 interested in summer professional development should consider participating in one of the outstanding Research Experience for Teacher programs (RET) run through Florida State University. One of the opportunities involves working at the National High Magnetic Field Lab (NHMFL). The NHMFL is home to the world's most powerful magnet. Teachers work alongside world renowned scientists using state of the art technology and materials. The other opportunity involves working at The Florida State University Coastal Marine Lab. Teachers participate in scientific inquiry related to marine ecology and translate these experiences into classroom teaching strategies. Housing, travel and stipends are provided for both programs. Application and information for the program are below:

National High Magnetic Field Lab

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

Marine Experiences for Teachers

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

Florida Virtual School Unveils New Mobile App

Students and parents can connect with the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) no matter where they are thanks to a new mobile app. The new app - goFLVS - is available for free from the iTunes App Store and Android Market, and allows students and parents to peruse the course catalog, set call and assignment reminders, check out the FLVS events calendar, browse FLVS mobile learning apps, and connect with FLVS through social media, over the phone or by email.

Additional features including notifications about new courses and school announcements, the ability to register for an FLVS course or buy FLVS gear from the school store will be available in the near future.

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium Offers "Lesson Study" Training

The Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) has recently added professional

development in Lesson Study to its inventory. The new Tuesday Teacher Training course follows the Lesson Study process from beginning to end and features Executive Director of the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Office Stuart Greenberg. The new course joins hundreds of hours of educational professional development that meets or exceeds Florida's protocol standards housed by PAEC's electronic Professional Development Connections (ePDC). To access the video library and enroll in the online Lesson Study course, go to <http://www.paec.org>, click on the ePDC tab, and search for "Tuesday Teacher Training: Lesson Study-Data Charts the Course."

Teacher Treasures

We are proud to announce the winner of the Florida Department of Education's Teacher October Giveaway. **Ivette Torres** won a \$100.00 gift certificate to **Olinastar.com**.

I earned a BA in Spanish from InterAmericana University. I began my teaching career by volunteering my time as an adult ESOL instructor and a substitute teacher. I really enjoy helping students learn the skills needed for reading comprehension and the look on their faces when they understand that reading is priceless. I provide a learning environment where it is ok to answer incorrectly because this means that another student may also not understand, and the mistake gives us the opportunity to analyze and learn from the mistake. As a result, 45 percent of my students made FCAT learning gains last school year. My love for teaching is happiness when the students themselves are realizing that they are learning. ~Ivette Torres



Our **December** giveaway will be a (one-night/two-night?) stay at the **Intercontinental Tampa**.

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. Enter today at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.



KidCare Act Out for Health Contest Accepting Entries

The annual KidCare Act-Out for Health Contest is now accepting student entries for television public service announcements, billboards and essays. Students in grades 4-12 are eligible to design a billboard, write an essay or create a 30-second commercial that promotes a healthy lifestyle. Lesson plans for teachers are also available. The deadline to submit an entry is Jan. 6, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.actoutforhealth.org>.

Olina Star

Who doesn't love jewelry? Especially if it's for FREE! Olina Star, the only brand that offers jewelry at teacher's prices, is offering a Free Gemstones Jewelry giveaway. Olina Star has great inexpensive elegance for teachers. Sign up online at <http://www.olinastar.com/> to receive exclusive teacher discounts and promos and you will automatically be registered in the giveaway. What a double deal! Be sure to share this amazing opportunity to all educators you know.

Education News

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! is just around the corner, Jan. 23-27, 2012, and the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Office would like to ensure that you have all the information necessary to make this year's Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! a success in your schools and districts.

The *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* PSA contest theme for this year is **"Take the Lead and Read."** We have once again partnered with Scholastic to bring you great resources and prizes for the PSA contest. Scholastic will provide classroom libraries to the schools of the winning PSA contest as well as to the school of choice of our Educational Partners who have agreed to participate as sponsors of *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!*

This year, we also have a new partner, the Daytona International Speedway. Through the Daytona International Speedway, we will showcase a *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* Race Car. The CLW Race Car will be wrapped with our partner logos and will tour the state throughout December 2011 through February 2012. The CLW race car will make scheduled appearances at schools and *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* events with the goal of motivating students to "Take the Lead and Read." The *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* race car will also make a special pre-race lap at the Daytona 500 in February 2012!

In addition to the PSA contest, we challenge students to "rev-up" and read for millions of minutes. Last year, we exceeded our goal of 10 million minutes by reading more than 17 million minutes in one single day. This year's goal has been set at.....**20 MILLION MINUTES!!** On Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, we ask that students in your schools read for an additional 20 minutes during the day (beyond regular school work) in celebration of literacy. These minutes may occur at various times across the school day in each classroom. Participating schools and districts will then be asked to report to the Just Read, Florida! Office the total number of minutes and students participating in the *Million Minute Marathon* in order to calculate the grand total. It is highly possible that we will exceed our goal of 20 million minutes of reading in one single day across the state! This is a great way for schools to participate in *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* in their schools. Be sure to designate a contact person at each school site to collect the *Million Minute Marathon* data to report the information to the district K-12 Reading Contact. The K-12 Reading Contact will then send their district totals to Hope Colle at

Hope.Colle@fldoe.org, by Friday, Jan. 27, 2012. The Just Read, Florida! Office will calculate the grand total and notify school districts the percentage of district and statewide participation in the *Million Minute Marathon*. **Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, "Take the Lead and Read" for a Million Minutes!**

Lastly, school districts can show support of Celebrate Literacy Week by hosting district-wide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* events and submitting a schedule of these events to the Just Read, Florida! Office where they will be showcased throughout the state. Districts participating may submit their plans to Hope Colle at Hope.Colle@fldoe.org. District plans, upcoming events and additional information are located on the Celebrate Literacy Week website at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/literacyweek.asp>.

Busch Gardens Physics Day **Dec. 2, 2011 and March 23, 2012**

Engage your students with the experience of physics in action! The "science of thrills" experts at Busch Gardens will motivate your students by bringing physics to life in the exciting surroundings of the world-class theme park. Physics students will get one hour of exclusive park ride time plus the live **Physics in Motion** interactive show. Teachers will receive a free copy of a physics guide packed full of in-class instructions with advanced registration.

Enhance your students' educational experience by visiting the Animal Biomechanics Interactive Stations. Measure bite force, take a closer look at "super" abilities, and estimate the speed of a variety of animals. Plan approximately 20 minutes for each station.

Busch Gardens will open one hour early at 9:00 a.m. exclusively for Physics Day students. This gives students the unique opportunity to experience the exciting roller coasters and make some of their physics calculations without having to wait in line. Visit http://www.buschgardensgroupevents.com/fla/youth_programs/physics_day.asp for more information.

Teachers After Dark

Teachers recently got up close and personal with numerous tigers, dolphins and sharks at Busch Gardens and SeaWorld during two special *Teacher Talk* shows Nov. 5-6 and Nov. 12-13. Educators from across the state participated in unique professional development workshops on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and then had the opportunity to spend the night in Tiger Lodge at Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay and at Dolphin Cove or the Coral Reef Aquarium at SeaWorld. The Florida Department of Education (DOE), in partnership with Busch Gardens, SeaWorld and numerous education vendors, turned its monthly *Teacher Talk* show into teacher appreciation sleepover sessions for learning. Learn more about this great educational event at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.

Office Depot celebrates January Star Teacher Days!

From January 8th – January 14th Star Teachers save **10% OFF INSTANTLY** on qualifying in-store purchases with your member card. PLUS, choose a FREE copy offer! Visit <http://www.mystarteacher.com> for exclusive Star Teacher events throughout the year.