

# Just for Teachers

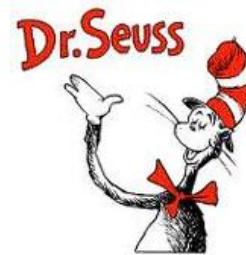


News from the Florida Department of Education

March 2011

## A message from Kelly...

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!! Seuss's children's books teach us that every single person has a role to play. As Seuss writes in his final book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* (1990), "You have brains in your head. / You have feet in your shoes. / You can steer yourself / any direction you choose":  
So . . . be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray  
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,  
you're off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting.  
So . . . get on your way!



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



Teacher Talk March Episode

## Teacher Appreciation

A live teacher audience show that was packed with professional development, surprises, and a Disney® fieldtrip!

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/profile.php?id=726112111#!/EducationFL>

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

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

### **Community Classroom Consortium (CCC)**

Our community has a unique assortment of resources that add a distinct flavor through informal learning. The Community Classroom Consortium (CCC) harnesses these resources to achieve something that is beyond the reach of its individual members.

The CCC, a coalition of more than 30 cultural, scientific, natural history, and civic organizations in north Florida and south Georgia, provides educational experiences and resources for students, teachers, the general public, and its members. In addition, membership in CCC provides opportunities for networking, professional development, and community partnerships. Visit, <http://www.communityclassroom.com/>, for more information.

### **International Reading Association (IRA) Convention**

*May 8 – 11, 2011*

*Orlando, Fla.*

Florida will be the host for the IRA Annual Convention this year. The IRA convention creates a charged and creative learning environment dedicated to YOUR needs. Bump into someone you know, strike up a chat with someone you don't... this is where YOU can connect! Start planning now by visiting the convention preview at <http://www.iraconvention.org>. There you can find everything you will need to get started with easy-to-navigate info, registration, and searches. Need funding? Check out the preview section dedicated to funding tools and resources.

### **Plant Camp 2011**

*June 12 – 16, 2011 University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
Gainesville, Fla.*

Science teachers in upper elementary grades, middle and high schools are invited to apply to attend Plant Camp 2011, a free summer workshop to learn more about the native flora and fauna that make our state unique. Twenty-four applicants will be selected through a competitive process that demonstrates his or her commitment and history of sharing new science knowledge with students and colleagues. Participants can earn up to 32 hours of professional development credit. The deadline to submit an application packet is Feb. 25, 2011. Visit <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education> for more information.

## Teacher Discounts



### **Mote Aquarium**

Teachers, come explore the secrets of the sea for free. Mote Aquarium offers one free ticket for each teacher presenting a pay stub at our admissions desk. This offer covers one teacher only and does not extend to accompanying guests. Mote Aquarium is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 365 days a year and features more than 100 marine species, including manatees, sharks, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish of all shapes and sizes. Learn more at <http://www.mote.org>. Also check out Mote's education programs for school groups at <http://www.mote.org/education>.

### **Wet 'N Wild Teacher and Staff Appreciation**

In thanks to you, for everything you do, Wet 'n Wild would like you to enjoy SPLASHtacular savings! Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/discounts.asp> for a downloadable form to present at the gate.

## Teacher Treasures

"I have been teaching in Osceola County for 23 years with 17 of them working in the Special Ed department. I am currently at St. Cloud High School working with full time Autistic students. Every day brings joy and excitement as I watch my students grow and flourish in the community. Because I have spent all my spare time this past year finishing my endorsement in Autism, I have not taken the time for a vacation. I'm so pleased and thrilled to have received the weekend stay at the Wright by the Sea Resort in Delray Beach!! Many Thanks...Ruth"



Our February giveaway for one, two-night stay for two at InterContinental Tampa and one, breakfast for two at Shula's was won by **Marc Horowitz**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Indian Trace Elementary School.

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.

**The March giveaway** will be for one, two-night stay for four to the Inn on Fifth in St. Petersburg and four two-day passes to Wet n' Wild. Enter today at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.

### **Florida Statehood Day is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Florida became the 27<sup>th</sup> state in the United States on March 3, 1845. Visit <http://www.flheritage.com/kids/history.cfm#top> for more information.





## **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 rule visit the following site: <http://www.fmcd.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>

## **Middle and high school students receive scholarships for winning statewide Florida KidCare Act-Out for Health PSA Contest**

After reviewing more than 400 entries from middle and high school students from across the state, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation today announced the regional and statewide winners of the 2010-2011 Florida KidCare Act-Out for Health Contest <http://www.actout4health.org>. To view all of the winning billboards and television PSAs, visit <http://www.actout4health.org>

## **18th Annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race**

Registration is now open for the 18th Annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race competition. High school and college students are invited to design and build a vehicle that addresses a series of engineering problems similar to those faced by the original lunar-roving vehicle team. Each school may enter up to two teams and international teams are limited to 10 teams per country. Registration for U.S. students is Feb. 1, 2011, and the race will take place April 1 – 2, 2011, in Huntsville, Ala. at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. For more information and to register online, visit <http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov/index.html>.

## Education News

### Disney Youth Education Series Offers Real-Life Learning in a Larger-Than-Life Setting

Disney Youth Education Series programs are behind-the-scenes field studies that allow students to see how principles they're learning in the classroom are making exciting things happen every day in the Disney Parks.

Students can learn about physics while riding Space Mountain at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park with the lights on and off, meet citizens of the world at *Epcot*® and get hands-on experience preparing a meal for an elephant at *Disney's Animal Kingdom*® Theme Park.

Educators can choose from more than a dozen programs taught by professionals at various *Walt Disney World*® Resort locations. The hands-on courses increase desire to learn, encourage students to reach their potential and demonstrate the importance of teamwork, all in a unique setting.

After the program students stay at the Theme Parks, where they see how the knowledge they've gained is applied throughout the Disney Parks.

Disney Youth Education Series programs are offered in four disciplines — **Leadership & Careers, Arts & Humanities, Physical Sciences and Natural Sciences**. The programs are accredited by Northwest Accreditation Commission, and students receive supplemental materials to enhance their learning experience back home. However, Disney also understands that one size doesn't fit all, and facilitators tailor each program's content for your students.

Disney's dedicated team of cast members can help plan and book a trip, including meals, hotel accommodations and specially priced group tickets that are not only educational, but also affordable.

Visit <http://www.DisneyYES.com/FDOE> to register your class.

Disney  
**Youth  
Education  
Series**



### **Florida's Education System Named Fifth in the Nation**

The Sunshine State has received a fifth place national ranking on the *2011 Quality Counts: Uncertain Forecast* report issued by *Education Week*. The annual report tracks state policies and performance across key areas of education and assigns each state with an overall point total to signify their education standing in the nation. This year's move to fifth, up from eighth last year, 10th in 2009 and 14th in 2008, rests prominently on Florida's continuing improvements in student achievement. According to the report, Florida is one of the best states in the country in terms of improvement in National Assessment of Educational Progress scores and narrowing the achievement gap between low-income students and their peers. The report also indicates that Florida's improvement in its graduation rate and the number of students passing Advanced Placement exams is outpacing almost every other state in the nation. Thank you Florida teachers for your hard work and dedication to student success! For more details about Florida's performance on the 2011 *Quality Counts* report, visit <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/index.html>

### **Statewide Online Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Teacher Training Project**

The DOE Office of Healthy Schools is working in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County to provide a statewide online tobacco prevention education course designed for K-12 teachers and guidance counselors. This professional development opportunity will supply participants with increased knowledge, skills, and classroom delivery strategies on tobacco prevention and intervention education. There is no charge for this interactive online course and districts may award up to 60 in-service points toward teacher recertification. For more information, visit <http://www.tobaccopreventiontraining.org>.

### **Simon Malls Kidgits Club "Book Blast" to Collect Books**

Are you cleaning out your bookshelves? How about donating some of those used books to a local school? The Florida Department of Education, MetaMetrics and seven Simon Malls in Florida will promote the importance of reading and collect new and gently-used books at each mall's Simon Kidgits Club's "Book Blast" events throughout March. The books will support the goals of DOE's "Just Read, Florida!" initiative and be distributed to schools in the vicinity of the participating mall through donations to the Florida Education Foundation.

The remaining events will take place on the following Saturdays:

- March 5, 2011– Tyrone Square (St. Petersburg): noon to 2 p.m.
- March 12, 2011– Melbourne Square (Melbourne): 10 a.m. to noon
- March 12, 2011– Miami International Mall (Miami): 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 19, 2011– Coral Square (Coral Springs): 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 19, 2011– Seminole Towne Center (Sanford): 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to activities and giveaways, select book blast events will feature DOE's "Find a Book, Florida," tool, created by MetaMetrics, which will help attendees locate new and intriguing books tailored to their own reading interests based upon the attendee's reading ability. For more information, visit [http://www.fldoe.org/news/2011/2011\\_01\\_19-3.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/news/2011/2011_01_19-3.asp).