

# Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

January 2010



## *A message from Kelly...*

Happy New Year!!! Or as we in the teaching profession know it, Happy “Mid” Year. As we gear up for this year’s round of state assessments, I thought I would give you a few websites that will benefit you and your students.

- ☑ FCAT Samples - <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcatsmpl.asp>
- ☑ FCAT Sample test booklets - <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcatit00.asp>
- ☑ FCAT 2.0 Sample Questions - <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/fcatitem.asp>
- ☑ FCAT Explorer - <http://www.fcatexplorer.com/>
- ☑ 3-5 grade Standardized test practice - [http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/south/shared\\_pages/standardized\\_test\\_practice.htm](http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/south/shared_pages/standardized_test_practice.htm)
- ☑ FCAT Express - <http://fcit.usf.edu/express/index.htm>

## *Also, in this issue...*

- The best kept secret in Educational Fun - Disney Y.E.S. Program
- Grant Resources
- Curriculum Mapping
- And much, much more...

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’s January Episode

Who’s Who and What do they do... at FLDOE?

Great information and resources

# Curriculum Corner



## **Disney Youth Education Series (The best kept secret in Educational Fun!)**

With [Disney Y.E.S.](#), there is learning around every corner for every curriculum- science, leadership, careers, arts, and social sciences. Choose the right program for your group, based on the grade level and interests of your students, your target curriculum, or the *Walt Disney World*® Resort location offering the program. [Disney Y.E.S.](#) programs are accredited with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. More than ever, you can depend on [Disney Y.E.S.](#) to support your curriculum objectives with high-quality, eye-opening field studies that bring textbook principles to life for your students.

- [Arts & Humanities](#) programs offer fun and informative explorations in the wonderful worlds of culture, animation, and theater.
- [Leadership & Careers](#) programs help your students explore careers in leadership, business, and nature studies.
- [Natural Science](#) programs give your students an opportunity to understand some of the animal care and management issues that scientists face at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort and around the world.
- [Physical Science](#) programs let your students see and understand the science behind some of their favorite Disney attractions.

The Disney Y.E.S. hyperlinks above will take you to our website. The listing of our programs can be found on the lower left hand side of the page. The box lists several options and our program descriptions is the third item listed.

You can also read a quick overview by browsing through our online brochure:

<http://www.disneyworldyes.com/brochure>

## **FL WIN: Florida Language and Writing Initiative Network**

The Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction launched a new website today intended to help Florida's K-12 teachers increase their students' academic achievement in writing. The site, "FL WIN: Florida Language and Writing Initiative Network," contains several mini lessons, rubrics and assessment resources, as well as links to state and national research and reports. Many lessons and site recommendations are linked to one or more grade-level Florida writing benchmarks, aligning them with the state's curriculum standards. Teachers can use the new site to supplement their writing instruction through various resources such as instructional mini-lessons, online writing lessons, professional development resources, and rubrics and assessments. Be sure to visit [www.fldoe.org/bii/fl-win](http://www.fldoe.org/bii/fl-win) to try out this great new tool!



### The Commissioner's Summer Reading Adventure Program

To prevent students from losing ground over the summer, Florida created several programs to provide the learning opportunities necessary to ensure student performance and achievement continue upward. The Commissioner's Summer Reading Adventure program offers students an online free book search, "Find a Book," that relies on Lexile measures to help students build personal book lists that match their reading ability and interests. Students receive Lexile measures throughout the school year because of progress-monitoring assessments. The site has received more than 40,000 unique visits since the program was implemented in May. The state

expanded the Find a Book program for the entire school year to ensure students continue to improve their literacy by searching for and finding books that meet their interests and their school assignments. In January 2011, the state will host "Celebrate Literacy, Florida" to promote literacy, raise awareness, and promote the enjoyment of reading. The state also has adopted the Common Core State Standards as building blocks for student achievement. State Education Commissioner Eric Smith says, "By working together and participating in these literacy programs, events, and initiatives, we can ensure our students are equipped with the literacy skills they need to become productive citizens of our great state." Read more at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/pdf/FindBookFlorida.pdf>

### **The ultimate goal of reading instruction is to enable children to read fluently with good comprehension!**

Here is a fantastic tool for 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers to get their students on the path to good comprehension. FCRR has developed a **curriculum mapping tool** that is aligned to all state adopted basil series. Just put in your grade level and basil series unit and choose from a myriad of great lesson plans and activity templates.

Check it out at the following link:

[http://www.fcrr.org/FAIR\\_Search\\_Tool/FAIR\\_Search\\_Tool.aspx](http://www.fcrr.org/FAIR_Search_Tool/FAIR_Search_Tool.aspx)



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference & Competition

Children on a Seesaw: "Balancing High Pressure and Special Needs in Young Lives"

January 28-30, 2011 in Harmony, Osceola County, FL

Forum discussion will focus on the particular pressures of children with special needs including autism and related disorders, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia and children with psychological inabilities for empathy.

<http://www.harmonyinstitute.org/COS2011/COS2011.html>

## Teacher Discounts



### **Fairfield Inn & Suites**

The Fairfield Inn & Suites located between 95 and the Florida Turnpike is the only Marriott in Fort Pierce, Florida. Local Restaurants such as Red Lobster, Steak & Shake , and McDonald's are within walking distance of the hotel. The Fairfield Inn & Suites is a Certified Green Lodging Hotel. The discounted rate "Just for Teachers" is \$65.00 per night through Dec. 2011.

### **Residence Inn by Marriott**

The Residence Inn by Marriott, located in beautiful Saint Lucie West is just off of 195. Carraba's restaurant is just outside the hotel's front door. Spring Training for the New York Met's at Digital Domain Park is within 1 mile from the hotel. PGA Golf Village is just across I95 and within 1 mile. There is lots to do in St. Lucie West such as shopping, Movie Theatre, and several dining options. The discounted rate "Just for Teachers" rate is \$89.00 per night through Dec. 31, 2011



The goals of "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" are to promote literacy throughout the state by raising awareness of the programs and projects offered by the DOE and its partner agencies and organizations, and most of all, to promote the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages. Visit the following link for more information: <http://www.justreadflorida.com/literacyweek.asp> .

## Teacher Treasures

Michael Varn, our November Teacher Treasures winner.

A note from Michael – "I am a 15 Year Veteran Educator, and I absolutely love my job. They say when you find a job you love doing, you will never work a day in your life. I feel this is so true in my profession, and I look forward to each day of working with our wonderful students. Thanks to Just for Teachers, I am enjoying Family Night at Chick Fil - A with my wife and daughter." Thank you Michael for your dedication to your students!!!



**December's \$100 Gift Certificate to *Publix Supermarkets* winner is Jennifer Channell**

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. January's prize is January's giveaway is for a two night stay for one family at beautiful Wright By The Sea Resort in Delray Beach.



## **“100 Cupboards” Author and Volunteer USA Invite Southwest Florida Students to Enter Writing Contest**

N.D. Wilson, author of the favorite *100 Cupboard* book series, has partnered up with Volunteer USA for the *Behind the Cupboard Door* Writing Contest for students in grades fourth through seventh. Students in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties are invited to participate in the writing contest. Students will write their very own short story or poem set around the theme of *Behind the Cupboard Door*.

Contest winners will be recognized at a special VIP breakfast to kickoff our 11th Celebration of Reading event on February 11, 2011.

The students will be Wilson’s guests of honor at the Celebration breakfast and have the opportunity to visit with the entertaining author and read their winning submissions to the crowd.



Fifteen winners will be selected. They will be announced to schools and on Volunteer USA’s website at [www.volunteerusafoundation.org](http://www.volunteerusafoundation.org) on **January 27, 2011** as part of Florida’s Celebrate Literacy Week.

## **Great Resources for Grant Seekers**

### **Grants and RFPs**

- [Exceptional Education and Student Services](#)
- [Family & Community Outreach Grants](#)
- [Workforce Education Funding](#)
- [SUCCEED Florida Grants](#)
- [Innovation Fair Matchmaker Grants 2006-07](#)
- [Coordinated School Health Program](#)

### **Resources**

- [Grant Writing Resources](#)
- [Grant Seeking Resources](#)
- [Grants Training & Development](#)
- [Grants Management](#)

# successMEASURES

STANDARDS + ASSESSMENTS = SUCCESS MEASURES

The Florida Department of Education has developed an online tool to help parents and families throughout the state learn about changes to our standards and assessments.

This new resource, called **Success Measures** will provide parents and students with information on what is being taught and tested in our classrooms.

Log on today to learn more about:

- The materials students will be learning.
- When and how students will be tested.
- Why our assessment program is changing.

Try these three easy steps to learn more:

**STEP # 1** Go to [www.fldoe.org/successmeasures](http://www.fldoe.org/successmeasures).

Click on the Success Measures Pathway Tool

**STEP # 2** Select a grade level and school year

**STEP # 3** Submit the course(s) in Reading/Language

Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies,

Health or Physical Education

***This will be a very informative site to pass on to your students and their families.***

The following links may also be beneficial:

[Learn more about the FCAT](#)

[Learn more about FCAT 2.0](#)

[Learn more about Florida End-of-Course Assessments](#)

