



Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

June 2011

Communication from Kelly...

Summer is here and time for such hard earned and much needed rest and relaxation! Here is a list of the Top 10 Things Teachers can enjoy doing during Summer Vacation:

1. Read some great books – just for yourself
2. Use the Restroom anytime you want – just because you can
3. Take 45 minutes to eat lunch
4. Go out to eat for Lunch – with friends and not kids
5. Create a scrapbook of the past year
6. Get a Pedicure and a Manicure – no dry erase marker colors on these hands
7. Attend some Professional Development trainings
8. Run errands at 10 am when there is no one else in the stores
9. Gardening and remodeling are great summer projects
10. Don't plan anything – especially not your day's activities

To be effective, teachers must look back on their practices and assess what works well, what doesn't, and how they might improve to ensure students' success – *next month!*

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.



Curriculum Corner

Just Read, Families!

Just Read, Families! is a summer reading program which provides parents with information about actively reading with their children during the summer months. View the 2011 Summer Recommended Reading List: <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/SummerReadingList.pdf>

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium/FloridaLearns Foundation 44th Annual Leadership Conference

July 13 - 14, 2011

*Bay Point Marriott Resort
Panama City Beach, Fla.*

Educators from across the state are invited to the 2011 Panhandle Area Educational Consortium/FloridaLearns Foundation Leadership Conference July 13 - 14, 2011, in Panama City Beach, Fla. Participants will hear what education experts have to say, discover fresh approaches and find solutions to challenges facing schools and districts, connect with peers to discover best practices, and become motivated to begin another academic year with renewed enthusiasm. For more information, call (877) 873-7232 ext. 2260 or ext. 2320, or visit <http://www.paec.org/leadershipconference/>.

Florida Distance Learning Association Annual Conference

Sept. 23 - 24, 2011

*Nova Southeastern University Orlando Campus
Orlando, Fla.*

The Florida Distance Learning Association will host its annual conference at the Orlando campus of Nova Southeastern University Sept. 23 - 24, 2011, with the theme "Distance Learning: Best Practices and Beyond." The conference seeks to raise awareness of the best practices in distance learning, promote greater participation in dialogue and exchange, and strengthen district education in the state and nation. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.fdla.com> or contact Conference Program Coordinator Tara Kobel at tleconsultants@aol.com.

Teacher Discounts



The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach

Special Florida Teachers rate of \$199.00 per night plus 11% tax. Our special 2011 Promotional Rate to all Florida Teachers gives you and your family the opportunity to experience a family friendly ocean front beach resort and Eau Spa by Cornelia. This promotion includes a Resort View Room (1 king or 2 double beds) and valet parking for one car. The special rate is available during May 4, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2011, (this promotion is based upon availability at time of booking and cannot be combined with any other offers).

To make reservations, please call The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach room reservations at (561) 533-6000 (refer to rate code: **TEAP**). * Must show a valid Florida Teachers or Florida District ID upon check in*

Teacher Treasures

We are proud to announce the winners of the Florida Department of Education's Teacher Treasures April Giveaways. **Elizabeth Sizemore** and **Bonnie Bowman** each won two-night stays for four at **Tradewinds Island Resorts**. **Sharla Morrison** won a two-night Complimentary Stay at the famous **Innisbrook Resort**.

Our May giveaway for one, two-night stay for two at **Jupiter Beach Resort** was won by **Kathryn Hall** and ESE teacher for Palm Beach Public Schools.

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 June giveaway** will be for one, two-night stay at the Palms Hotel. Enter today at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.

Education News

Help Volunteer USA Get Free Books to Help Families

The Volunteer USA Foundation is seeking your help. They want to help 20,000 families obtain free books – and here's how you can help. Simply read a short story or two online with your child or friends at <http://www.wegivebooks.org/campaigns/love-read-learn>. Each time you read, Volunteer USA will get a free book donated to its Love.Read.Learn! program, which provides family-friendly workshops to give parents skills to help their children succeed. When you visit the link, be sure to select "Support Volunteer USA's Love.Read.Learn! campaign.

Space Shuttle Flight Simulator



Florida State University Lab School, led by teacher Peter Carafano, dedicated a mobile NASA Space Shuttle Flight Simulator May 10th. This shuttle simulator is part of an innovative program, led by the FSUS Science Department, to provide students with experiences that will allow them to see the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in today's society. The simulator was funded by a Florida Department of Education Curriculum Challenge grant as well as donations by local businesses and parents. Once operational, the simulator will become the central component of a local and statewide outreach program by FSUS to Florida schools to help support STEM education. As you can see in the picture I got a chance to try out the simulator – I'm not sure being the first person to fly the simulator upside down was a compliment, but it was exciting!

FLOWMobile - ID Cards for Children

Did you know that children aged five and up are eligible to get a State of Florida Identification Card? The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles sponsors the Florida Licensing on Wheels - also known as the FLOWmobile - that will come to your school so parents can sign up for the ID cards. The cost is only \$25 and parents must have their child's birth certificate and other important documents on hand. Visit <http://flhsmv.gov/offices/FLOW.htm> to request a FLOWmobile at your next school event. For information on the documents required to obtain an ID card, visit <http://www.GatherGoGet.com>.

School-Related Employee of the Year Named

Rachel Melson, a 21st Century Site Coordinator at Bond Elementary in Leon County is the School-Related Employee of the Year for 2011. Melson was selected from among four other finalists based on their unique ability to help their schools be successful while also providing outstanding service to the teachers and students they work alongside. As this year's winner, Melson will receive an award of \$1,000 from the Florida Department of Education, and each finalist receives \$475. Congratulations Rachel!

The finalists for the 2011 School-Related Employee of the Year are as follows:

- April Stage, Instructional Paraprofessional from Staton-Weirsdale Elementary School in Marion County
- Michelle Muniz, Home-School Liaison from J.D. Parker School of Science, Math & Technology in Martin County
- Pamela Paone, Instructional Assistant from Hudson High School in Pasco County
- Charles Derexson, Secretary/Bookkeeper from Ridgecrest Elementary School in Pinellas County

For more information about the School-Related Employee of the Year program, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/yearemp.asp>.

Education 360

The Florida Department of Education has a new video series called Education 360 which provides quick snapshots about important education reform efforts currently underway in the Sunshine State. Watch the first episode of Education 360 at <http://www.fldoe.org/committees/sq.asp>.

Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida will present The 16th Annual Teachers Institute at the Center in Maitland from June 20-24, 2011. The Center is one of eight sites designated by the Department of Education, through its Task Force on Holocaust Education, to help teachers incorporate Holocaust Education in their class as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 1003.42.

The Institute is appropriate to teachers at all grade levels and in all disciplines. Up to 40 hours of in-service credit can be earned. Lectures, films, printed material and survivor testimony give participants accurate, useful information about the Nazi era and help them identify the things that allowed the Holocaust to happen.

Just as important, the Institute encourages thoughtful discussion on how to help children understand the importance of tolerance, good citizenship, and nurturing democratic values.

The registration fee is \$100. Lunch and text materials are included. Information and registration is online: http://www.holocaustedu.org/education/teacher_training/teachers_institute/. For more details please call (407) 628-0555.

Treat Your Family to a Summer Outing that's Both Fun and Educational

Wondering what a *Disney Youth Education Series* program can do for your classroom? Experience it for yourself – with your family – this summer!

These programs give your students real-world learning experiences at Disney Theme Parks and provide newfound insights, skills and knowledge to motivate and inspire participants. And now you can share these key learning's with your own loved ones all summer long.

Through the Individual Enrollment option, individuals, homeschoolers, virtual students and community groups can participate in *Disney Youth Education Series* learning experiences. Taught by specially trained Disney facilitators, the programs are offered in four disciplines – Leadership & Careers, Arts & Humanities, Physical Sciences and Natural Sciences – at *Walt Disney World*® Resort in Florida and *Disneyland*® Resort in California.

By blending learning with fun, these programs make a real impact on participants.

See for yourself what a *Disney Youth Education Series* program can do for your classroom. Or, recommend these programs to parents who are looking for exciting educational opportunities for their children. To learn more, and to book an



Individual Enrollment program, visit <http://www.DisneyYES.com/Individual>.



Florida Green School Award Nominations Due

Public or private K-12 students, teachers, classrooms, schools and districts throughout Florida that are committed to green school efforts are encouraged to submit an application for the Green School Awards. The program recognizes the work of students, teachers and school administrators to enhance learning by implementing green school initiatives in Florida. Last year, applicants saved \$5.2 million through their green school efforts, and the money saved can be used to support teachers or to purchase school supplies like books and computers. The application deadline is June 21, 2011, and packets will be reviewed over the summer by a select panel of judges convened by the Sustainable Florida Program of the Collins Center for Public Policy. Finalists will be invited to attend the formal awards ceremony as part of the "Learn Green" Green Schools Conference and Expo in Palm Beach in Nov. 2011, and the statewide winners will be announced. For more information about the Green School Awards, including an application, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/schools/about.htm>.

TradeWinds Thanks Teachers with Low Beach Getaway Rates!

Rates at the TradeWinds Island Resorts on St. Pete Beach have been deeply discounted for education professionals for selected dates in June, July and August. Standard hotel rooms at the Sandpiper have been discounted to \$69 (a \$195 value), while hotel rooms at the Island Grand are \$79 (a value of \$195). **Please note: The \$25 per night resort amenity fee is not included and will be in addition to these rates.** Discounts are also available on other room types and dates.

Teachers and school staff can visit the website at <http://www.JustLetGo.com/Teacher> or call the reservations office direct at 800-249-2501 for dates, discounts on other room types, and all details and restrictions. Your Education ID must be provided at check-in.

The following dates are currently available, but will book up quickly at these rates! All dates have limited availability and are subject to change.

Available Dates:

Island Grand

June - 1, 2, 5-8, 12-16, 26, 27.

July - 5-7, 10, 14, 24-28

August – 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 21, 24-30

Sandpiper

June - 1, 2, 5-8, 12-16, 26, 27.

July - 5-7, 11-14, 17, 18, 24-28

August – 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 21-30

Have a great summer and we'll resume the Just For Teachers newsletter again in September!