

Just for Teachers



News from the Florida Department of Education

October 2011

Communication from Kelly...

The Commissioner's 4C's

Florida's new Commissioner of Education, Gerard Robinson, is implementing a new motto in support of the strategic plan approved by the State Board of Education.

Supporting: Colleges, Careers, Creativity, and Commerce

- Preparing high school graduates for the rigor of a quality postsecondary education.
- Equipping young people and adults with employable skills in high-wage earning careers.
- Creating public-private partnerships to encourage economic development and strengthen local and statewide commerce.
- Thinking creatively about how best to deliver and manage our seamless system of education.

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 October Episode

Charter School Spotlight

A live teacher audience show packed with professional development, surprises, and a Disney© fieldtrip! Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/tta.asp> to view past episodes.



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. 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/EducationFL>

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

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

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

Adventure To Fitness!

A FREE K-5 interactive, on-demand physical activity program you can use right in your own classroom. Age appropriate co-curricular episodes stream into classrooms immersing students in an exciting world of fun and adventure. Students interact in moderate to vigorous activity accomplishing each week's 30-minute exhilarating mission while helping schools satisfy state physical education mandates. Designed for the general education classroom, each episode aligns to Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in core subjects, giving teachers the time and freedom to participate. Visit <http://www.adventuretofitness.com/2011/> to learn more.

Conferences

We have numerous workshops and conferences listed on our Just For Teachers webpage. Check them out at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/conferences.asp>.

Statewide K-12 Library Resources Now Available Online

Teachers, students and parents now have access to K-12 public school library holdings through <http://k12.floridalibraries.org>. Searches can be done at the school district or state levels and tailored by school, genre, format, topic and language. Citations in Modern Language Association (MLA), American Psychological Association (APA), and Chicago styles are available. For more information, contact Katrina Figgitt in the Florida Department of Education's Office of Library Media at Katrina.figgitt@fldoe.org.

Teacher Treasures

We are proud to announce the winner of the Florida Department of Education's Teacher Treasures September Giveaway. **Wendy Richardson, a Florida Virtual School Chemistry Instructor**, won a two-night stay for four at **TradeWinds Island Resorts**.

Our October giveaway will be a gift certificate from Olin Star (<http://www.olinastar.com/>).

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/>.



Clorox "Power A Bright Future" Grants

Clorox is seeking nominations for a chance to win a \$50,000 grand-prize grant or one of four \$25,000 grants to help provide resources to school programs that provide kids the opportunity to grow and learn. Send in a nomination by Oct. 17, 2011, and tell how your school would use the grant to make a difference. Voting begins Oct. 24, 2011, and the winners will be announced in January 2012. Visit <http://www.clorox.com/classrooms/grants/> for more information and to nominate your school. Don't forget to vote!

2011-2012 Florida KidCare Act Out for Health Contest

It's time for the 2011-2012 Florida KidCare Act Out for Health Contest! This year, the contest features lesson plans for teachers to help their students submit their entries in the essay, TV Public Service Announcement, and Billboard categories. The contest offers tons of prizes for students and schools. The Act Out for Health Contest runs through Jan. 6, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.actoutforhealth.org>.

Send in *Zora and Me* Literacy League Questions

The Florida Department of Education's Literacy League is a podcast project that provides students an opportunity to connect with their favorite authors. Students read a pre-selected book, submit questions about the book to the author, and the author answers them via video. Each video is shared on the Department's YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/educationfl>. The club is open to all students in grades 6-8 as a way to support and encourage a love of reading by giving students an opportunity to connect with their favorite authors. Student questions for the latest book choice, *Zora and Me* by Victoria Bond and T.R. Simon, are due by Oct. 31, 2011. For details and information about Literacy League and upcoming book selections, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/literacyleague>.

Education News

Florida's Reading Proficiency Standards Among the Best in the Nation

A new report from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows that Florida has some of the strongest reading standards in the country. The Mapping State Proficiency Standards report compares each state's NAEP reading and mathematics proficiency standards against national proficiency standards to see how closely they match up. To view the report, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/>.

Continue Your Professional Learning Online

Broward Virtual University (BVU) is designed to provide educators with a meaningful academic learning experience and offers the opportunity for educators to participate in staff professional learning at their convenience. Broward Virtual University provides continuing educator professional learning in a variety of categories, including The Arts, Science, World Languages, Social Studies, Prevention Programs, Mathematics and Reading, just to name a few. Courses through BVU are viable alternatives to after-school and weekend training. With Internet access being the only prerequisite, the courses can be accessed anywhere, at any time. Technical support is provided around the clock. The BVU website, sbcc-vu.com, provides a description of the online courses offered through BVU and answers questions about online learning. You will also find a Year-At-A-Glance calendar that provides course titles and registration dates for the entire school year. A course fee of \$4.00 per inservice point is charged at check out. You can purchase any required materials at that time and pay with either a Mastercard or Visa.

This year there are several new courses aligned with the state's End of Course Tests for Algebra I and Geometry. You will also find new courses on Reading Aloud, Asthma, Brain Fitness, Understanding the Benchmarks and much more. The BVU is part of the Human Resource and Development division of the School Board of Broward County. For additional information or learn how to get started, call (754) 321-5053 or email bvu@browardschools.com.

Newt's World

Susan Womble, a K-12 Exceptional Education teacher for 35 years in Florida public schools, has written two children's books with workbooks. The first book titled, "Newt's World: Beginnings," won the 2008 Florida Book Award Gold Medal in Children's Literature. It has also been included on the Just Read Florida's recommended reading list for the past three years. Second in the series is "Newt's World: Internal Byte." The books with accompanying workbooks were written with the classroom in mind.

Set in Tallahassee, Fla., the stories follow Newt, a 12-year-old computer whiz, who uses a wheelchair, as he struggles to find friends and "fit in" after he enrolls in a new charter school. Newt adapts a NASA computer communications program developed by his father into a holographic game--a virtual world--"Newt's World" and shares it with his two new best friends. He has to avoid a bully, and tries to escape an espionage ring that is searching for the secret computer program. The book highlights science-based themes



including the space program and submarines. Embedded within the story is a video game virtual world that adds intrigue, uniqueness and mystery to the plot.

Visit the following sites:

<http://www.susanwomble.com> - A site set up for the book that includes information about the program along with pages about dealing with bullies and information about persons with disabilities.

<http://www.newtsworldbeginnings.com> - A kid-friendly site set up that includes information, games and fun activities.

Glogster EDU

The leading education platform for creative expression of knowledge and skills in the classroom offers a fun, imaginative, and powerful learning experience which fosters independent creative self expression, positive learner-teacher relationships, and teamwork on collaborative class projects. Glogster EDU enables student users to create Glogs, interactive media-rich posters that creatively mash together photographs, videos, graphics and music to showcase the student's creative talents and thoughts. Visit <http://edu.glogster.com/?SSPR=1> to learn more!

Special Education Coach named national group's Teacher of the Year

By Sylvia Lim, Times Correspondent
In Print: Sunday, August 7, 2011

Robert Sinibaldi thought he would end up coaching high school basketball. But after working with special education students during his junior and senior years in college, he was hooked. So now he teaches children whose athletic abilities are at the other end of the spectrum. "I so loved working with special ed," said Sinibaldi, who works with students who are moderately to severely disabled. These disabilities could range from mental to physical to medical impairments, or a combination. Their needs "exceed what a regular PE teacher could give them," said Sinibaldi, who works at Walsingham Elementary in Largo. The 30-year teaching veteran was recently named the Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The mission of the 20,000-member organization is to "promote and support leadership, research, education and best practices in the professions that support creative, healthy and active lifestyles." Sinibaldi exemplifies the organization's mission through his work, said Mariah Burton Nelson, executive director of the alliance. He has two patents pending for inventions, and he even showed alliance officials a golf club he made out of PVC pipe for students with "limited mobility," Nelson said. "He's innovative, he's creative, and he has published widely," she said. Sinibaldi holds a doctorate in exceptional education and serves as an adjunct education professor at his alma mater, the University of South Florida. He also conducts training of other physical education teachers in Pinellas and has helped the district secure grants for school programs, especially those in adapted PE. Sinibaldi has developed lessons using fishing, bowling and putt-putt golf.

"I have a little bit more freedom to look at what my students need and where I can go with it." He even takes kids out and flies kites with them. "I try to get them to play to improve their motor patterns and their social skills and their cognitive skills," he said. "It's extremely rewarding."

Tobacco Prevention Training

This course earns up to 60 in-service points while providing your students with the tools to make good decisions about tobacco. It's at absolutely *no cost* to teachers, administrators and guidance counselors. Lesson plans and activities are already made to use in your classes and found in the course. Visit <http://www.tobaccopreventiontraining.org> for lesson plans, activities, events, videos, resources.

Article submission from The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

When one thinks of the struggle for equal rights, thoughts of women demanding the right to vote, or of African-Americans fighting for equal pay, automatically spring to mind. Less well known is the disability rights movement, which works toward equal opportunity for people with disabilities. That may soon change!

Every year, the first two weeks of October are **Disability History and Awareness Weeks** in Florida. School districts are required by law to provide instruction for students in all public schools to expand student knowledge, understanding, and awareness about individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights movement.



The Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) (FDOE), in partnership with several other organizations, including Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services, the Able Trust, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, and others, will also host events to educate the public.

A kick-off event is planned for **October 3** at the Capitol rotunda. The event will be emceed by Bureau Chief Bambi J. Lockman, LL.D., and FDOE Commissioner Gerard Robinson is expected to speak. Members of the Florida Youth Council will be on hand to publicly thank lawmakers for passing the bill that created Disability History and Awareness Weeks. Vocalist Erin Cheeseborough, a Tallahassee Community College student, will entertain the crowd. The closing ceremony will be held in Tallahassee at the Turlington Building on **October 14** at 10:00 a.m.

Teachers are invited to view the new Disability History and Awareness page on the BEES website, at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/history>, for information to share with their students, as well as resources and ideas for district and school activities for Disability History and Awareness Weeks, or for use at any time throughout the year. Students and teachers can help build the site by sharing their success stories and the instructional or promotional activities that worked well for them. Send information to Program Specialist Kathy Burton at Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org.