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Read for Health to Grow your Habit Hero Potential

Partners at the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership have demonstrated tremendous support to spread the health and wellness message to 3rd through 5th graders during Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! January 13-17th. Volunteer readers are being encouraged to visit third, fourth and/or fifth grade classrooms around the state to read the "Iron Man and Habit Heroes" comic book. As many as 6,000 classrooms will receive a health promoting physical activity, nutrition and hydration message throughout the week. Comic book sets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Florida Department of Education and Florida Blue understand that the basic components in maintaining good health and eliminating health disparities begins with the ability to read, write and comprehend letters and numbers. In partnership with Marvel Custom Solutions, Florida Blue developed this year's featured book "Iron Man and Habit Heroes". In this comic adventure villains unite to take control of New York City. They are stealing the citizen's energy in order to open a portal and bring their evil master to Earth. The Habit Heroes –Agent Dynamo, Agent Fuel and Agent Quench—respond to the emergency by uniting with the world famous armored Avenger, Iron Man. This book conveys a positive message about healthy lifestyles in a fun and empowering way. Students will learn Iron Man's armor may be able to fly through the air and fire repulsor rays, but inside that armor is Tony Stark, who like all of us, can always learn new ways to improve their lives by making healthy decisions.

Creating a fun experience for children and adults to help further their health is just one way to achieve a personal healthy weight and ensure that our state has the healthiest weight in the nation, an initiative supported by Florida's State Surgeon General, Dr. John Armstrong. Help educate our future leaders about the significance of reading and maintaining a healthy lifestyle by participating in this wonderful volunteer opportunity!

To participate, please register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WVFWJ5P> by Friday January 3, 2014. Once the request is received, Florida Blue will mail an Iron Man and Habit Heroes kit to you that will include enough books for every student in the classroom, the teacher and yourself. You are responsible for contacting the school, scheduling the classroom visit and determining what screening requirements may apply prior to your visit. After the comic book has been read in the class, please work with the students to complete the training guide that is included in each book, this guide helps children learn to incorporate healthy habits into their daily lives.

Feedback about this experience from the classroom teacher's observation of student engagement is important to us. An evaluation link will be included along with the books. The classroom teacher should complete this evaluation.

Thank you again for your support of the Read for Health Initiative's "Health Literacy in the Classroom" volunteer reading project and promoting healthy lifestyles for Florida's youth. If you have any questions, please e-mail Healthy Schools Director Penny Taylor at penny.taylor@fldoe.org.

We look forward to your participation in this wonderful health literacy awareness and volunteer opportunity.

Health Education

- I. **Mental/Emotional Health** focuses on human emotions (joy, anger, fear, stress, etc.) and their impact; positive coping skills, including stress management; building self-esteem; positive social relationships; responsible decision-making; suicide prevention; other intentional injury prevention; depression and other mental illnesses; and communication skills.

- ▶ Please see the following website for additional information and resources.

- ▶ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

- II. **Tips to prevent holiday stress and depression**

- ▶ Acknowledge your feelings
- ▶ Reach out
- ▶ Be realistic
- ▶ Set aside differences
- ▶ Stick to a budget/plan ahead
- ▶ Learn to say no
- ▶ Don't abandon healthy habits
- ▶ Take a breather
- ▶ Seek professional help if you need it

- III. **National HHS/CDC Resources for Schools to Prepare for Seasonal Flu**

- ▶ Each year an average of 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized for flu-related complications. Promoting healthy choices—vaccination and other preventative measures—at school and at home can prevent seasonal flu from spreading. Below are resources from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist in planning for flu outbreaks:
 - [Seasonal Flu Information for Schools & Childcare Providers](#)
 - [Information for Schools: Questions and Answers](#)
 - [Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Child Care and Early Childhood](#) (PDF – 1.90 KB)
 - [Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools \(Grades K-12\)](#) (PDF – 633 KB)
 - [Influenza School-Located Vaccination: Information for Planners](#)
 - [School-Located Vaccination Planning Materials and Templates](#)
 - [How to Clean and Disinfect School to Help Slow the Spread of Flu](#)
- ▶ For more information visit <http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/school/>

IV. Human Trafficking in Florida

Florida has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, citing one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country and has risen to the challenge to serve as a model to the nation in strengthening laws and educating citizens about what to look for and how to stop this form of modern day slavery and can include sex trafficking, labor trafficking or domestic servitude.

Florida ranks third in the nation in reports to the national human trafficking hotline. Each year, more than 300 Florida children are reported as human trafficking victims, and countless cases remain unreported. Human trafficking is a serious problem facing vulnerable children and adults throughout Florida affecting many communities. Victims can be found in plain sight if we learn to identify the signs and take the time to look.

Since 2009, the Florida Department Children and Families investigated over 1,500 child trafficking cases. On average, girls enter the commercial sex trade between the ages of 12-14 years old and for boys, it's even younger. All of Florida's citizens, especially educators and others trusted by children need to be aware of the signs that a child is being exploited and know the steps to take to protect them.

The Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection collaborated with FDOE Healthy Schools to revise the Tool Kit. The tool kit and associated Human trafficking training helps to raise awareness in schools and in the community. Educators, other school/community-based

professionals and parents have a critical role to play in recognizing potential human trafficking and in helping potential victims access specialized services.

The tool kit is expected to be released in spring 2014. A notice of release will be issued and links to the tool kit will be posted on the [FDOE Healthy Schools](#) website.

We encourage you to stand against human trafficking.

National Dance Education Organization held in Miami, Florida

Miami, Florida was selected as the host city for the 2013 National Dance Education Organization conference which was held October 23-27. The Florida Dance Education Organization combined their annual conference with the national conference which focused on dance pedagogy. The 2014 Florida Dance Education Organization conference will be held October 16-18, 2014 at the University of South Florida.

2013-14 Arts Integration for Teaching Artists and Others Webinar Series

The second 2013-14 Arts Integration for Teaching Artists and Others Webinar will be held on January 23rd. It is open to all classroom teachers (any subject area), administrators, teaching artists and community arts organizations.

For more information please visit <http://www.faae.org/>.

From Haiti to Carnegie Hall

A disabled immigrant student from Haiti born with hydrocephalus provides us with an inspiring and uplifting story. After being abandoned, taken in by the Notre Maison orphanage in Haiti, and then brought to the United States for a lifesaving surgery, she is now a successful and thriving student at the Sidney-Lanier Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Now seventeen, she has since returned to the orphanage where she once lived to share her music education experiences with the children there. In addition, the music students at Sidney-Lanier collaborate weekly with the students at Notre Maison.

Please click on the link below to the November 2013 issue of the Florida Music Director to enjoy this inspiring story and share it with your arts teachers who teach students with disabilities as both an inspiration and encouragement!

<http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/florida-music-educators-association/florida-music-director/2013110101/#0>

AP Course Description Updates

The College Board has released the revised Curriculum Framework for its Advanced Placement Chemistry and Spanish Language and Culture courses effective in 2013-14 as well as for the United States History and Physics courses and a new Computer Science A lab requirement effective in 2014-15. The changes to these courses are significant.

You may find these curriculum frameworks and other resources online at <http://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/> for the course changes and at http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/4483.html for the lab requirement change. These pages are part of the Teacher Community website that the College Board sponsors for teachers of all AP courses.

Please ensure that all AP coordinators in your district, as well as teachers of AP Chemistry, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP U.S. History, AP Physics and AP Computer Science A are made aware of these revisions so that they may prepare for the change.

Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC) - STEM for Gifted and Talented in Rural Districts

The purpose of this project is to provide gifted and talented students in small rural districts with an opportunity to participate in rigorous learning experiences related to content in the areas of STEM and to have access to highly effective mathematics and science teachers, professors, researchers, and business persons to provide instruction and mentorships to Florida's most gifted and talented students. Major milestones to date include:

- Personnel from Florida's three educational consortia, the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, Heartland Educational Consortium and North East Educational Consortium are currently working with almost 1,400 gifted and talented high school students from 54 schools across twenty-seven of Florida's small and rural school districts.
- Project advisory boards have brought individuals from school districts, higher education, business and industry, workforce and economic development together to join forces to explore issues related to the STEM talent gap from the various perspectives and to collaborate in order to provide STEM-related learning experiences.
- Since January 2012, *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* participants have taken part in 60 regional forums on the campuses of community colleges, regional colleges, or universities. Forums have provided opportunities for students to interact with faculty members, scientists, STEM business

and industry professionals and take part in collaborative problem-solving and leadership development activities. As of June 2013, forum participation was 3,149.

- STEM career and financial aid information has provided for 2,236 attendees at 105 parent/student nights since project inception.
- The project's distance learning initiative has expanded to involve 34 schools. Two-way interactive distance learning equipment and iPads are in use as means to deliver and/or receive rigorous STEM content, such as AP science, AP calculus, Honors Chemistry and dual enrollment college courses, in both synchronous and asynchronous formats.
- Since the summer of 2012, 14 regional Summer Challenge experiences have been provided for 395 participants. During the Challenges students spent multiple days delving deeply into a variety of open-ended STEM problems, enriching knowledge and skills, interacting with higher education faculty and learning more about STEM careers. In the summer of 2014, students will again have the opportunity to take part in regional Summer Challenges. At the end of the project's funding period, the curricula will be made available to school districts, regional colleges, community colleges, or universities in order to sustain this project activity with a minimal investment.
- The *FloridaLearns STEM Scholars* Talent Development Initiative is well underway! More than 300 STEM-related businesses have been contacted and 111 have signed on to provide a variety of STEM talent development opportunities that include tours, career coaching, shadowing, mentoring, or internship experiences.
- The STEM Talent Development initiative increased the intensity of experiences offered during the summer of 2013 as 93 students and teachers spent eight days "on the job" at a STEM-related workplace or field site. These experiences will be offered during the summer of 2014 and project personnel plan to expand the number of options and increase total participation.
- Three project-sponsored, University of Florida Immersion into STEM, experiences attracted 87 STEM Scholars to the UF campus this past summer. Students engaged in a series of lectures and hands-on STEM experiences, while gaining valuable insight into STEM academic and career options and living as college residents.
- For information about project activities, please visit www.floridalearnsstemscholars.org.

Instructional Materials Adoption for Grades 6-12 in English Language Arts and Mathematics

State expert reviewers are currently concluding their appraisals of materials bid in English language arts and mathematics for grades 6-12 for the next school year. As part of the adoption process the public are invited to review and provide comment on the materials. Please inform members of your community that this opportunity exists. Public review will open in January for two weeks. In order to be able to review materials a login to the review system is required. Those who would like to review are asked to email IMStaff@fldoe.org.

Gifted Hot Topics

Keeping your finger on the pulse of best practices in the field of gifted education or current events that are driving instruction across the country isn't always easy. The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) has information on the current hot topics.

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Our Nation's Renewable Resources
- Young Gifted: Potential and Promise
- Fostering Diversity in Gifted Education
- Differentiation of Curriculum and Instruction
- Identification Practices in Gifted Education

See the following website for additional information.

<http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=652>

Gifted Children and the ABC's of Gifted

If your child has recently been identified as gifted, or if your child is developmentally advanced compared to peers, you undoubtedly have a list of questions. Fortunately, there is a tremendous amount of current information about raising gifted children on the NAGC website. This website provides many different types of resources and articles to help answer gifted questions.

The ABC's of Gifted has an entire parent section with information addressing many different aspects of giftedness. Other areas found within the NAGC website will help you discover information about gifted education that is meaningful to you and your child and will put you on the right road to being an advocate for your child.

The following site can provide additional information.

<http://www.nagc.org/abcgifted.aspx>

Race to the Top – An Update on ELA Formative Assessment Tasks

In conjunction with the Florida Department of Education, Pearson is creating an English language arts website for K-8 teachers that incorporates reading passages with tasks that are aligned with the college- and career-ready standards. The site will include at least four tasks per standard, with each task delineating its specifications, evaluation rubrics, frequent student misconceptions, and considerations for English language learners. The system will allow teachers to rate and comment on each task and

passage. Teacher professional development toolkits will include links to written resources and videos on various aspects of the standards.

Project Task Talks

Illustrative Mathematics has introduced *Task Talks*. They announce a task of the week every Tuesday on their [Facebook](#) and [Google+](#) pages. The following Monday night at 7 p.m. EST, they host a webinar to discuss the task. You can RSVP for the webinar at <http://bit.ly/TTRSVP> and join on Adobe Connect at <https://illustrativemathematics.adobeconnect.com/tasktalk/>.

Free Online Resource

Are you in need of a graphing calculator? Try the free online graphing calculator that can be found at <https://www.desmos.com/calculator>. This resource allows you to 1) create a graph, including the use of parameters versus constants to make the graph more dynamic as well as having the functionality to use the same variables in several equations to plot curves that will change together; 2) create a new table or convert an existing expression into a table, while keeping sliders functional if previously included in your existing expression; 3) create a moveable point on a graph; 4) save and open your graphs once signed into your Google or Desmos account; 5) share your graph with the Permalink, Email, Embed, and/or Image features; AND MUCH MORE! See the user guide at https://desmos.s3.amazonaws.com/Desmos_User_Guide.pdf.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The PAEMST are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

Since 1983, more than 4,200 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN! The 2014 Awards will honor mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers working in grades K-6. Nominations can be completed at <https://www.paemst.org/nomination/nominate> and will close on April 1, 2014.

TEACHERS, APPLY ONLINE! Before logging in, please review the [2013–2014 Application Packet \(Adobe PDF\)](#). Applications must be completed by **May 1, 2014**. Go to https://www.paemst.org/home/welcome_teacher?id= for more information.

Youth CareerConnect Grant Program

In direct response to the well-regarded idea that to be successful in today's global economy, young people need both broad knowledge from a well-rounded curriculum as well as workplace competencies and experiences they can carry into college and their careers, the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have collaborated on a new grant program designed to reward local partnerships who deliver education with this idea in mind.

The Youth CareerConnect grant program seeks to fund local partnerships between schools, employers, institutions of higher education, workforce partners, non-profits, and community leaders that will transform the high school experience by focusing on real-world learning. Potential Youth CareerConnect grantees expose students to a rigorous academic and career-focused curriculum that prepares them for every type of postsecondary endeavor as well as the work world, through career awareness, hands-on learning, job shadowing opportunities, work-based mentoring, and other workplace experiences.

Through Youth CareerConnect, the U.S. Department of Labor, in collaboration with the U.S Department of Education, will provide \$100 million in grants to 25 to 40 local entities—education agencies, public or non-profit local workforce agencies, or other non-profit organizations—that have marshaled their collective strengths to provide transformative high school experiences for their students.

Grantees must be able to provide a local match of 25 percent of their overall grant award and each funded partnership, at a minimum, and must include a local education agency, workforce agency, employer, and higher education institution.

The notice inviting applications for funding under Youth CareerConnect can be found [here](#).

In addition, a Fact Sheet outlining this grant opportunity can be found [here](#) and few news articles about this release [WSJ article](#) and [Ed Week article](#).

STEM TIPS

The University of Florida and the Florida Department of Education are establishing a teacher induction support system with partner school districts that will serve as a model statewide. The features included in this online system of support for new science and math teachers includes online mentoring, professional development, and networking opportunities with their peers.

Goal for e-Posium:

Our goal is to provide an online platform for sharing exemplary practices and facilitating discussions regarding innovative strategies, projects, or programs in STEM teacher education.

Find information about upcoming e-Posium events at <http://education.ufl.edu/conference/calendar/>.