



Florida Department of Education

October 2012

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Now that the school year is in full swing, I hope that your excitement is ever-growing over the academic successes you are seeing in your students. My middle school son told me recently that he had taken a field trip during his world history class. I asked him if he had done a Skype Trip, or a Google Lit Trip, or maybe even a Trampoline Virtual fieldtrip. He looked at me quizzically and said, "No, mom, we went outside and carried gallons of water around the bus loop to see what people in Africa have to do to get water." Just a reminder, that the fall season is a great time of year to get outside the classroom and engage your students in interactive lessons while reaping the benefits of more exercise and fresh air.



*Kelly Seay*, Deputy Director of Educator Relations

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## Teacher Treasures

### **October Giveaway**

Our October [Teacher Treasures](#) Giveaway will be four tickets to **LEGOLAND**. Teachers receive [free admission](#), so you can bring four guests. During October you can celebrate [Brick-or-Treat](#) on any weekend.

## Education Conferences

### **Florida Association of Science Teachers Conference**

October 25-27, 2012

St. Augustine, FL

<http://www.Fastscience.org>

### **Florida Council for the Social Studies State Conference**

October 26-28, 2012

Orlando, FL

<http://www.Fcss.org>

### **Florida School Counselor Association Annual Convention**

Nov. 1-3, 2012

St. Petersburg

<http://fla-schoolcounselor.org>

Find many more conferences at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/conferences.asp>

## Curriculum Corner

### **K-5 Writing Resource**

There is a new educator practice guide recently released by the Institute of Educational Sciences, "[Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers](#)," that contains specific, evidence-based recommendations that address the challenge of teaching writing in elementary school. The guide provides practical, clear information on critical topics related to teaching writing.

### **Poetry Out Loud**

Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest is a literature program for high school students in every state in the country. Poetry Out Loud participants master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage through poetry recitation. To register for the [Florida POL Program](#), go to the state agency website and click on the green "SIGN UP NOW" link on that page to get to the online registration form. Enter all school, teacher and classroom information and fill out the form completely to get started for this year's Poetry Out Loud process.



### **Lead 2 Feed**

[Lead2Feed](#) will provide 10 standards-based lessons that are focused on leadership skills and based on the book, *Taking People with You*, by David Novak. The program also includes the World Hunger Leadership Challenge that will award \$500,000 in prizes to winning teams to fund their hunger project charities.



Disney Youth Programs provides an awesome collection of Physical Science, Natural Science, Arts & Humanities, and Leadership & Careers programs for K-12 students.

### **CPalms**

Gather new Common Core State Standards' Resources and initiatives to help shape your year at [CPalms.org](#)

### **Hispanic Heritage Month 2012 Recommended Reading List**

This [recommended reading list](#) provides a variety of suggested books by grade level for children of all ages, as well as a selection of suggested books for adult reading. Just Read, Florida! makes reading a priority in Florida's public schools and among the community groups and volunteer organizations that support them. This recommended reading list serves that goal while increasing students' interest in the many aspects and contributions of Hispanic culture to the State of Florida.

# Education News

## Common Core State Standards



### Instructional Resources

#### [K-5 CCSS Toolkits](#)

Florida's elementary school teachers have free resources available to support the state's [transition](#) to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2013-14. Following the successful CCSS Summer Institutes for educators, the Department has released the CCSS Professional Development Toolkits for English Language Arts for grades K-5. The helpful toolkits are available [online](#) and may be used by teachers as they explore the new curriculum and create their English Language Arts lesson plans around the new standards.

[Learn More About the Common Core](#)

[Common Core Summer Institute Materials](#)

[PARCC \(Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career\)](#)

### Your Opinion Counts!

We have a [new link](#) on our JFT webpage sidebar that will lead you to a page containing various surveys and questionnaires in which FDOE is soliciting your feedback. Check it out on a routine basis as new surveys are added.

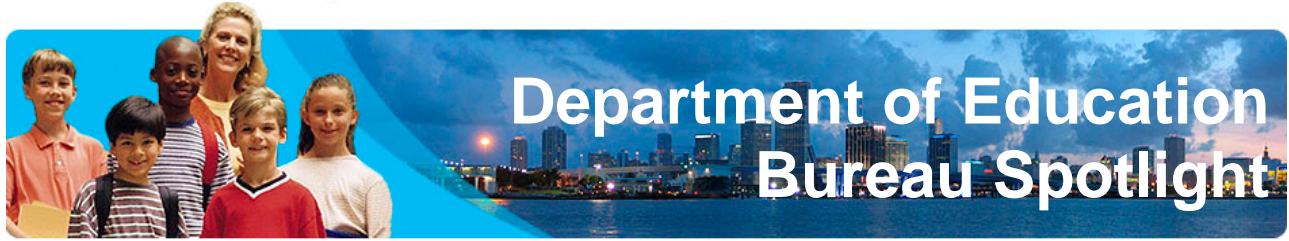
### Preserve America History Teacher of the Year

Since 2004, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History conducts the Preserve America History Teacher of the Year award program throughout the United States. The award celebrates outstanding American history teachers at the state and national level. This year, Florida's Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year winner is Mr. Eric Johnson from Fivay High School in Pasco County.



Mr. Johnson began his teaching career as an instructor in the United States Marine Corps Special Operation Training Group in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. After retiring from the Corps, Mr. Johnson began teaching United States History. Since transitioning from military to public education, Mr. Johnson has adopted a "hands-on" teaching philosophy that is centered on helping his students personally connect to the history around them, making US History their own. It is this philosophy that has positively impacted not only his students, but also the community at large. Here are just a few of the amazing ways Mr. Johnson has impacted his students and the community: "3 Hours, 2 Towers" Project, "History In Our Own Backyard," Historic Sites Research Trips (including Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., and Ground Zero in New York).

Mr. Johnson exemplifies a remarkable commitment to his students and education. Congratulations Eric Johnson and thank you for everything you do!



The Florida Department of Education's **Office of Safe Schools** (OSS) encourages teachers and schools to promote awareness of youth substance abuse and youth violence. Consider taking part this October in Red Ribbon Week and National Bullying Prevention Month.

### **Red Ribbon Week**



Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to take a stand against drugs by proudly wearing a red ribbon symbolizing the courage to say no to drugs. The Red Ribbon Campaign is now the oldest and largest drug prevention initiative around, reaching millions of young people across the nation. Red Ribbon Week is generally the last full week in October, and will be celebrated this year October 20th - 28th.

The Campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent, in 1985. It now serves to preserve his memory and others that died in the line of duty, to further the cause, and to support DEA efforts to reduce the demand for drugs. By wearing a red ribbon during the last week in October, Americans demonstrate their ardent commitment toward the creation of a DRUG-FREE AMERICA.

Schools and communities can coordinate a variety of activities including 'theme' days throughout Red Ribbon Week. For ideas, see: <http://www.imdrugfree.com/>. To find out how your students can participate in a more unified, national effort click here: <http://nfp.org>. Or, ask your students to create their own campaign.

### **National Bullying Prevention Month**

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Sponsored by several parent advocate groups including [PACER](#), the mission is to encourage communities to work together to increase awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on children.



The [PACER](#) web site helps children learn how to prevent bullying as well as how to respond to bullying. It features an animated cast of characters, celebrity videos, "Webisodes," games, a contest, and other activities and information. Also included are tips, intervention strategies, and resources for teachers and parents.

PACER also encourages participation in Unity Day on Wednesday, October 10. Ask your students to wear orange on Unity Day. That's when scores of people around the country will join the movement to "Make it Orange and Make it End!" In 2011, Ellen DeGeneres promoted the cause on television by wearing orange and reminding millions of viewers about the importance of bullying prevention.

Looking for more great resources, click here: [National Bullying Prevention Month](#)

*Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and administrators.*