



Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

January 2012

Communication from Commissioner Robinson...

Recommendations for FCAT 2.0 and Algebra I End of Course Cut Scores

The FCAT 2.0 and the Algebra I End of Course assessments are based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and are designed to test Florida's students on more rigorous material. The standards recommended by Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson and unanimously adopted by the State board of Education reflect this, raising the bar for Florida's children from 3rd through 10th grade and ensuring they are on the path to graduating college and career ready. For the first time in Florida's history, graduation requirements are aligned with college readiness and the standards are consistent across grade levels. Parents, teachers and administrators will now be able to identify those children who need additional help earlier so they can graduate college ready. For more information about the cut scores, visit http://www.fldoe.org/news/2011/2011_12_07-3.asp.



Teacher Talk December Episode

STEM: *Teachers After Dark*

A live audience show with 200 teachers spending the night at Busch Gardens Tampa and SeaWorld Orlando.



The Florida Department of Education has a 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/profile.php?id=726112111#!/EducationFL>

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

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

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

Shutterfly - <http://floridadepartmentofeducation.shutterfly.com/>

Flickr – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/educationfl>

Student Astronaut Challenge

The Florida Department of Education is proud to announce its first-ever Student Astronaut Challenge, a unique opportunity that offers high school students a chance to compete in aerospace science and be involved with a team that demonstrates knowledge and understanding in the field, problem solving and performance within a flight simulator. Eight five-person teams will be selected to compete from applications received by Jan. 27, 2012. Applications must include a scientific proposal for a zero-gravity experiment that will be conducted if that team is chosen. Selected teams will compete at the Challenger Learning Center in Tallahassee on May 19, 2012. Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/> for official rules and an application form.

Celebrate Florida Literacy Week 2012

With Walt Disney World Resort and Author Ridley Pearson

Florida Literacy Week is fast approaching and what better way to celebrate than giving your students the opportunity to become part of the story at Walt Disney World?

On **January 26th** at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*®, the Disney Youth Education Series presents: [A Conversation with Author Ridley Pearson](#). Your students will have the chance to interact with the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Kingdom Keepers* book series. During this special presentation, Pearson will share insights on his creative process, story inspiration, character development and even his career path to becoming an award-winning writer.

Starting at just **\$60 plus tax per student***, one-day ticket packages consist of:

- Participation in the presentation
- One-day admission to a Disney Park
- Materials for the new [Kingdom Keepers Quest](#)*, a Kingdom Keepers-based literary adventure at *Magic Kingdom*® Park

All grades welcome. Groups of 10 or more students required. Don't miss this special engagement – [learn more now!](#) *See website for details.

Plant Camp 2012

June 17-21,2012

Gainesville, Florida

The University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) is looking for 24 science teachers (upper elementary, middle or high school) who are interested in attending PLANT CAMP 2012, a FREE* summer workshop. This 5-day event, slated for June 17-21, 2012, is designed for teachers interested in learning more about the 130-plus invasive plant species silently invading Florida's natural areas and neighborhoods.

Teacher Treasures

We are proud to announce the winner of the Florida Department of Education's Teacher November Giveaway. **Saralee Bergeron** won a one year subscription to Glogster.com.

Our December winner for a stay at the **Intercontinental Hotel in Tampa** was **Michelle Haines**, who teaches at Newsome High School.

Our **January** giveaway will be a **class set** of Ridley Pearson's book, **The Kingdom Keepers**.

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/>.



National Missing children's Day Poster Contest

<http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/poster-contest-resources/>

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law Enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school. Annually, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. National Missing Children's Day, to be recognized on May 25, 2012, will focus attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

Each year DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, is flown to Washington, DC, to attend this special ceremony. All 5th grade students are encouraged to participate in this poster contest.

Education News

The Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction (BCI) develops and implements standards and creates Florida PreK-12 course descriptions. BCI is comprised of five specialized offices that work together and coordinate with other bureaus and departments to serve the students, school staff, parents and citizens of Florida. BCI information can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/bii> or scan the QR code at the top of the page.

Office of Healthy Schools

The Office of Healthy Schools provides guidance to support districts in the creation of healthy school environments for students and staff. We work with school districts to assist in the development of Florida Healthy Schools and offer many resources including no cost professional development opportunities. Current no cost professional development opportunities include online tobacco prevention education, online and face to face HIV, STD, teen pregnancy prevention education, and regional school garden workshops. Please visit our website at: <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/CSHP> for information about all eight components of the Coordinated School Health model (1) Comprehensive Health Education (2) Physical Education (3) School Health Services (4) Nutrition Services and Education (5) Counseling, Psychological & Social Service (6) Healthy School Environment (7) School-site Health Promotion for Staff and (8) Family and Community Involvement.

Office of Humanities

The Office of Humanities supplies technical assistance and support to districts in the areas of English/Language Arts, Fine Arts, Social Studies and Gifted education. We work closely with the district content area supervisors to ensure that the lines of communication are open between teachers and the Department.

Everyone in the office has been deeply involved in the process of revising all course descriptions to align with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Common Core State Standards. These revised courses will go before the State Board of Education for their approval at their January 2012 meeting and will be available for use after that. These course descriptions contain everything that students should know and be able to do at the end of each course.

You will find a wealth of useful information on the [Office of Humanities webpage](#). Please feel free to contact anyone in the office at any time with questions or concerns.

Office of Instructional Materials

The Office of Instructional Materials works to ensure that high-quality, standards-aligned materials are available for Florida's teachers and students through the state adoption process. Florida adopts instructional materials by content area on a rotating schedule with adopted materials being placed under contract for five years. The Office of Instructional Materials oversees the entire adoption process which involves coordination and communication with the content area offices within the Florida Department of Education, school districts, publishers, and

the general public. For additional information about the Florida instructional materials adoption process, please visit our website at http://www.fldoe.org/BII/instruct_mat/.

Office of Mathematics and Science

Florida's Office of Mathematics and Science (OMS) is charged with defining research-based state education policy and programs for the state of Florida to increase student knowledge and performance in the content areas of mathematics and science. The OMS provides professional development resources to K-12 mathematics and science teachers and school administrators on effective instructional strategies.

Please visit our website at: <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/oms.asp> for information pertaining to the OMS responsibilities, Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (Common Core), the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, STEM Programs of Study, and the Sunshine State Scholars Program.

Office of School Libraries & Information Services

This office provides resources and support to district library media supervisors and school librarians and co-sponsors with the Florida Association of Media Educators two state wide programs; the Sunshine State Young Readers Award for students in grades 3-5 and 6-8 and Florida Power-Library Schools which is a designation awarded to outstanding library programs. For more information on programs and services please visit:

http://www.fldoe.org/bii/Library_Media.

In addition to library services this office also administers curriculum related contracts and grants and oversees bureau publications and communications. To subscribe to the BCI monthly newsletter which covers a range of curriculum topics please contact Lakeesha.Parker@fldoe.org.



*Happy
New Year!
from
the
Bureau
of
Curriculum
&
Instruction*

