

Dairy Dispatch

You Can Never Have Enough Cheese in Your News

Every Day, Earth Day

For 38 years, Earth Day, April 22, has served as a time both to celebrate the environment and to assess how we're treating it. It began in 1970 when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson became so concerned with air pollution and the overuse of lead gas that he launched a national petition "to shake up the political establishment and force the issue onto the national agenda."

It worked. Approximately 22 million Americans rallied for better treatment of the environment. This unique blend of Democrats and Republicans, wealthy and poor, city dwellers and farmers, banded together with such force that Congress created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and passed the Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts.

In 1990, Earth Day was organized globally, mobilizing 200 million people to bring environmental issues, such as recycling, to center stage. In 2008, Earth Day is more relevant than ever, as nations worldwide focus on global warming and converting to clean energy use.

Source: www.earthday.net

How to Reach Us

Charlene Blohm
charlene@cblohm.com
 Kristen Plemon
kristen@cblohm.com
 Sandy Fash
sandy@cblohm.com
 Emily Embury
emily@cblohm.com

News That's Out of this World...

ELL Students Improve Reading with Dynamic Literacy

Spanish and English are similar languages – 75 percent of ordinary Spanish and 60 percent of academic English share Latin origins. The *WordBuild Vocabulary Development System*™ from Dynamic Literacy takes advantage of this linguistic intersection by focusing instruction on shared Latin roots. The instructional materials teach Spanish-speaking students how English words are constructed by focusing on the meanings of prefixes, roots and suffixes, also known as morphemes. Once these students, known as English Language Learners (ELL), understand the definitions of common morphemes, they gain the skills necessary to decipher thousands of unfamiliar words, and their reading comprehension improves substantially. Dynamic Literacy has published a supplemental ELL guide for educators. To download a free copy, visit www.dynamicliteracy.com/resources.php.

Pokémon Learning League Focuses on Cyberbullying

Research shows that nearly half of all students have been bullied online. Cyberbullying poses a significant threat to students' well-being, but schools and parents can work together to prevent and remedy cyberbullying situations, and educate students about online ethics. To aid this effort, Pokémon USA, Inc., has added a lesson on cyberbullying to the *Pokémon Learning League*™ *Internet Safety Program*, developed in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education. The new *Pokémon Learning League* lesson helps students understand what a cyberbully is, and learn to recognize different forms of cyberbullying, strategies for dealing with a cyberbully, and the importance of enlisting a trusted adult's help when they or someone they know has been cyberbullied. Visit www.pokemonlearningleague.com/internet for more information on the *Pokémon Learning League Internet Safety Program*.

Chinese Classes Use ePals to Build Language Skills

With hundreds of classrooms in China using ePals' education applications, educators worldwide are accelerating the frequency of online collaborations between Chinese students and their K-12 students. As of March 28, there are more than 550 requests through the ePals Global Learning Community from China-based classrooms for collaborations with students in other countries. A high school teacher in Qinhuangdao, a Yellow Sea resort city located east of Beijing, posted: "My students are sophomores majoring in English. Their first language is Chinese. They have studied English for eight years, but have no chance to communicate with others. They are interested in exchanging culture with others. We are looking for any classes at the same English level around the world. We prefer to correspond by email and to write twice a month or once a week." For more information about how to collaborate with classrooms around the world, visit www.epals.com.

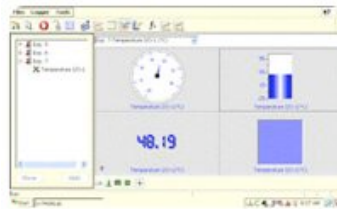
Grounded in the Facts...

Key Curriculum Press Launches New Online Service

Last week at NCTM, Key Curriculum Press launched *The Key to Tracker*TM, a new online subscription service, a companion to the *Key to...*[®] workbooks. *The Key to Tracker* helps teachers improve their students' basic math skills and monitor their progress as they work on the *Key to...* workbooks for fractions, decimals, percents, and algebra. Designed for grades 4-12, the *Key to...* workbooks break down barriers to learning math with clear explanations, completed examples and additional practice. The online companion *The Key to Tracker* saves teachers time with computer-graded assessments, keeping students engaged and on task with fun animations and instant feedback. For a free trial through Aug. 1, visit www.keypress.com.

Fourier's *MultiLab* Software Modified for Beginners

Most young scientists need to learn about data measurement and analysis through clearly defined stages, understanding "change in data" and building on these skills to understand "measurement over time." Fourier Systems has modified its *MultiLab* CE data analysis software available on the *Nova5000* to aid the teaching of these important science concepts in elementary school. The software features brightly colored bar, analog, digital, and color meters that show data measurements graphically to beginning users. One of the best tools for illustrating basic science is the temperature probe, by which young scientists can measure data using concepts they already know, such as determining hot versus cold. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com.



Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge

Discovery Education and 3M have joined forces to present the 2008 Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge, which is officially open for submissions through June 15. Now in its 10th year, the Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge reaches out to students during the critical years when research indicates that their interest in science begins to fade, encouraging them to explore everyday scientific concepts and creatively share their findings with peers. The Challenge is open to all 5th through 8th graders nationwide, and asks them to submit a video of their project for the judges to review. For more information about the 2008 Challenge, or to enter the competition, visit www.discoveryeducation.com/youngscientist.

SIIA Announces Vision K-20, Calls for Boost in Tech Use

To help educators and administrators integrate technology tools into day-to-day instruction and decision making, the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) launched its Vision K-20 Initiative. SIIA education companies worked together to develop the Vision to serve as a guide for educational institutions to implement technology district- and campus-wide. The initiative calls for a coalition of education stakeholders – including teachers, administrators, university leaders, business executives, and policymakers – to prepare students to thrive in an increasingly competitive and global marketplace. It aims to promote the combination of proven, well-implemented and well-supported technologies with solid educational approaches to sharpen America's innovative edge and to increase the opportunity for every person to fulfill their promise through education. To learn more, visit www.siia.net.

Getting Down to Earth

To better appreciate the celebration of Earth Day, let's look at this rock we live on in its planetary family tree. Ancient astronomers knew the heavens were moving, and named five twinkling lights "planets," meaning "wanderers," after Roman deities – Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Venus, and Saturn. With the advent of the telescope, three more planets were discovered – Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, although Pluto would later be demoted to "dwarf planet."

There are two planet types in our solar system. Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are terrestrial planets, meaning they have a solid rock crust. Earth is the only planet known to sustain life, thanks to its unique, protective atmosphere. The remaining four planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune – are gas giants, with no clear boundary between atmosphere and body.

But planets are more than just orbiting balls of rock or gas. There are 140 moons orbiting the eight planets in our solar system, many of which feature their own magnetic fields, atmospheres and volcanoes. For nearly two centuries Saturn was believed to be the only planet with rings, until rings were discovered on Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune in 1977. However, Saturn's are by far the largest, containing particles that range in size from tiny bits of dust to house-sized chunks of rock.

Earth is the third planet from the sun and the fourth largest planet, with a circumference of approximately 24,000 miles. Its surface is 70 percent water and 30 percent land. If you want to see the sun set twice on Earth Day, you better be able to travel at 1,038 mph!

Good luck and God speed, Earthling!

Source:

www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/profile.cfm?Object=SolarSys

Saving the Whole Earth

A culmination of events throughout the country spurred public support for the Earth Day movement. Historically, the U.S. had enjoyed such an abundance of natural resources that shortages never seemed a danger. As the 20th century brought an industrial boom, there was scant outcry over smokestacks and chemical waste – the lure of economic growth was too seductive.

Attitudes began to shift when the best-selling novel “Silent Spring” by marine biologist Rachel Carson hit the bookshelves, a “what-if” portrayal of the extinction of the Earth’s bird populations due to the buildup of toxic pesticides. Another key event was the Apollo moon mission taking the first photograph of the whole Earth. Finally, in 1969, when Ohio’s Cuyahoga River caught fire due to industrial runoff, the public outcry led to the National Environmental Policy Act, making the preservation of nature a federal priority.

With climate change becoming a major issue on the political and economic landscape, Earth Day is now an international event – it’s estimated a billion people worldwide observed Earth Day in 2007.

Source:

www.usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment/earth_day.html

Mark Your Calendar

SIIA

Ed Tech Industry Summit

The Palace Hotel
San Francisco, CA
May 18 - 20, 2008

Register at www.siia.net/etis/2008/.

NECC Media Central

Grand Hyatt Hotel
San Antonio, TX
June 31, 2008

Digging Up All the Dirt in Ed Tech...

E-rate Commitments Issued Faster Than Previous Years

Schools and libraries are able to experience the benefits of the E-rate program sooner than in years past, according to a new report issued by Funds For Learning. After examining information from E-rate Funding Years 2005, 2006, and 2007, the report found that The Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (SLD) is issuing E-rate funding commitments more efficiently, and disbursing E-rate funds at a faster rate. During the first 12 months after the close of the Form 471 Filing Window, the SLD increased its issuance of funding commitments from one year to the next. Furthermore, when comparing the pace of E-rate disbursements for the first six months of the same funding years, researchers found that the SLD is disbursing funds at a faster rate than each previous year. To download the report, visit www.fundsforlearning.com.

Califone Headphones Meet Strict Safety Standards

In 2006, Europe passed the RoHS Directive, mandating that electrical and electronic products sold in the European market contain only severely restricted levels of substances that can be health-threatening in large amounts, including lead, cadmium and mercury. Califone International, Inc., is fully committed to providing products that are as safe as possible, which is why the company for years has been creating educational products that follow RoHS standards. Setting new industry standards for environmental protection and recycling, RoHS specifies “agreed levels” for the use of known hazardous substances. “RoHS is changing the electronics industry,” said Tim Ridgway, vice president of marketing for Califone. “As the education industry’s leading provider of audio-visual tools, we welcome the opportunity to share our expertise as states, districts and schools begin to comply with changing regulations.” For more information, visit www.califone.com.

Colorado Teachers Reimbursed for Online Learning

To provide more professional development opportunities for teachers, and to assist them in achieving highly qualified status, the Colorado Department of Education teamed up with PBS TeacherLine to offer online courses to educators in the state. In support of teachers’ continuing education, the Colorado Department of Education Tuition Reimbursement Program reimburses teachers \$100 per PBS TeacherLine course, upon successful completion. In addition, teachers can receive Colorado Department of Education recertification credit and earn graduate credit. Megan Talbott, a second-grade teacher at Basalt Elementary School in Basalt, Colo., and Michelle Caldwell, a math teacher at Skyview Middle School in Falcon, Colo., are among the 72 teachers who have sought reimbursement through the program since Fall 2007. Both teachers are enrolled in their sixth PBS TeacherLine course to build their mathematical knowledge and instructional skills to improve student achievement in math. For more information, go to www.pbs.org/teacherline.



Get the Latest Education News

Set your RSS news reader to subscribe to the CB&A Education News feed at www.cblohm.com/cba_news.xml. Don’t know what RSS is? Drop us a line and we’ll fill you in.