



COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE

practical support for great science teaching

Volume 6, Issue 2

Newsletter, Fall 2008

1 – 2 – 3 – GO!

CRS LAUNCHES NEW INTERACTIVE WEB SITE

We're very excited to announce the launch of our new Web site, an interactive tool for linking and supporting our science education community. The Web site is designed around four portals that allow different types of community members to easily find the tools, links and programs that will help them work more effectively.

Check it out at
[http://www.crscience.org!](http://www.crscience.org)

Teacher Services Portal

Elementary teachers and other educators can become CRS Teacher Members to receive ongoing services, search our extensive science education resource database, plan lessons, and connect with professional development training offered across the community. The teacher portal provides direct science planning support, including lesson design tools, tested scientist-developed activities that complement adopted curriculum, and resource information. Teachers can also find Web links to a broad array of enrichment organizations, meta-sites with teacher tools and activities, and local education support organizations.

Community in the Classroom Portal

Local scientists who are interested in inspiring young students and supporting science education can get involved in Community in the Classroom, a

The screenshot shows the homepage of the CRS website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'About CRS', 'Resources for: Teachers, Scientists, Providers, Administrators', and 'Community in the Classroom'. Below the navigation, there are four main service portals represented by colored boxes:

- Teacher Services** (Red box): See how CRS helps teachers with year-round membership services, planning support, and workshops. Includes a 'Search CRS Resource Database' link.
- Community in the Classroom** (Blue box): See how CRS connects scientist volunteers with elementary classrooms.
- Science Education Development** (Green box): See how CRS helps science and environmental education programs become stronger partners for elementary teachers.
- School and District Services** (Orange box): See how CRS assists schools and districts to improve elementary science and learning.

Each service portal features a small thumbnail image and a brief description of its purpose.

CRS program that trains and places scientists in Teacher Members' classrooms in Alameda County. CIC scientist volunteers will find tools and ideas to develop effective lessons. Member Teachers will find preparation hints and tools for working with volunteers.

Science Education Development Portal

Education support providers, including resource organizations, informal educators in science and environmental education, and professional development organizations, can find information and services that will assist in reaching teachers and refining their programs. Support providers can use the new website to review information about the range of enrichment and professional development experiences in our community, offer to host a Teacher Social as a way to in-

duce teachers to your field trip site, link up with other related organizations, find out about resource development and collaboration projects, and review research about the existing resources in the Bay Area.

School and District Services Portal

Principals and district Administrators can learn more about how CRS helps schools and districts develop stronger science teaching, review CRS projects related to design of professional development programs and curriculum development, and find CRS research on the barriers and opportunities for science teaching in Alameda County. Those interested in replicating our model for application to other subjects, geographic locations or age groups can also find out about our approach and arrange a consultation.

Inside

New CIC Connections	2
Be CuRiouS	2
CRS at Cal	3
Donor Thanks	3
CRS Staff Update	4

NEW CONNECTIONS FOR SCIENTIST VOLUNTEERS

We started the year with nearly 100 scientist volunteers offering classroom role model science presentations to elementary school students in Alameda County. Working both in teams and as “solo” presenters, volunteers draw on their own science interests to develop hands-on activities designed to support California Science Standards for a specific grade level – new offerings this fall include “Balloon Rocket Cars,” demonstrating Newton’s 3rd Law for 2nd graders; “Rivers of Mud and Rock,” exploring erosion for 4th graders, and “Zap, Crackle, and Pop!,” full of static electricity activities for 4th graders.

In addition to our regular elementary outreach program, we are also working on a pilot program with

Piedmont Middle School, bringing scientist volunteers into each 7th and 8th grade science class about once a month. This fall volunteers have done presentations on “Gas Reactions” and “Solar Wind and Auras.”

Our new Web site provides a great opportunity to share the tools and outcomes of the Community in the Classroom program. Prospective volunteers can sign up for orientation sessions and preview training materials, active volunteers can find evaluation forms and support materials, and everyone can use the archive of presentation plans designed by scientists in the past, as well as find pictures of scientists in the classroom and heartfelt thank-yous from students!



Berkeley kindergarteners “build a bug” with volunteers from the UC Berkeley Entomology Student Organization.

BE CURIOUS: SCIENCE EDUCATION META-SITES



The Internet is full of great science education resources, but knowing where to look for them can be half the battle. Fortunately, we've found some great meta-sites that do the leg work for you, pulling together lesson plans, activities, background information, interactive resources and other media from across the Web to help you achieve your science teaching goals.

The National Science Digital Library is a national, free online gateway to resources and tools for all lev-

els of science education. In addition to offering searches by grade level, format, and subject, NSDL Pathways partners like the Journal of Chemical Education provide grade- and discipline-specific slices through the treasure trove of materials on the site. You can explore them yourself at <http://nsdl.org/>.

eThemes is an online database of age-appropriate, theme-specific teaching materials created by educators, for educators. Search for subjects from aerodynamics to Yellowstone, or browse topic-specific pages arranged alphabetically and by grade level, at <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/>.

Kids.gov has links to government and other kids' sites grouped by level and topic, with a new “site of the month” showcased each month. They also offer a list of science sites specifically for educators. Best of all, the resources are available in both English, at <http://www.kids.gov/>, and Spanish, at <http://www.usa.gov/gobiernousa/Temas/Ninos.shtml>.

All of NASA's education resources can now be found in one spot through their educator portal. You can search for classroom materials by keywords, grade level, product type and subject, find programs for students or educators, or watch NASA TV online. Check it out at <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/>.

Thinkfinity brings together lessons, interactives, primary sources, worksheets, assessments and more from established sources like AAAS' ScienceNetLinks and National Geographic Xpeditions. Search their online database by keyword, grade level and resource type, or browse the extensive keyword list, at <http://thinkfinity.org>.

The **CRS Web site** also has links to plenty of other useful science education meta-sites, from “the biggies” – mega-sites with lots of different kinds of resources and support – to specialized sources of targeted support geared to teachers' needs. See what else is available at www.crscience.org/teacher/metasites.html.

ATTRACTING NEW TEACHERS: CRS AT CAL

CRS is teaching a new course at the University of California, Berkeley, for undergraduate students interested in exploring teaching as a potential career. The course is part of the University's Cal Teach program, a series of classes which provide educational skills and credits that allow science, math and engineering majors to move easily into the teaching profession. It's like two careers for the price of one!

"Exploring Science with Young Students" is designed to give young adults a successful first experience with helping to teach science to elementary and middle school classes. The Cal Teach students are placed with elementary and middle school classrooms in Alameda County to assist with science teaching for at least one hour per week. In addition to observing and working with a skilled teacher, students also lead two hands-on science lessons of their own design to enrich the adopted curriculum focus. Our current en-

rollment is a diverse group of enthusiastic, bright students who are wonderful college role models and provide real support for their mentor teachers.

The course curriculum covers a range of teaching techniques for engaging diverse learning styles, building science knowledge, managing materials, using technology, and designing effective learning experiences. These techniques are modeled for the students using hands-on lessons that explore the content of the California Science Standards. The CRS professional development team created these experiences to introduce Cal Teach students to age-appropriate science content, while developing the skills they need for rewarding placements.

This course extends our support for the development of science teaching, complementing our existing workshops and other support for credential candidates and in-service ele-



Students in CRS' Cal Teach course participate in a hands-on plant dissection

mentary teachers. Our hope is that some of these students will choose to pursue teaching credentials at the completion of their college degree.

For more information on our professional development offerings, please see our website at <http://www.crscience.org>. If you're interested in becoming a mentor teacher for Cal Teach, eligible to receive one of these exciting role models, you can reach us at (510) 528-5212 or by email at teach@crscience.org.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS IN 2008

Foundation and Corporate Funders

Bayer USA Foundation
Berkeley Public Education Foundation
S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Cisco Systems Foundation
Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Foundation
The Fitzpatrick Foundation
Motorola Foundation
RGK Foundation
The San Francisco Foundation
Irene S. Scully Family Foundation
U. C. Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund
Washington Mutual Foundation
Bernard and Alba Witkin Charitable Trust

Individual Donors

Leader's Circle - \$1,000 and above
Paul Bartlett

Sustainers - \$500 - \$1,000
Robert and Wendy Bergman
Gigi Coe and Mike Garland
Susan Kattchee

Sponsors - \$250 - \$499

Mike Bloomfield
Henderson/Nold Family
Rachel and Jonah Jackson
Elna Norman
Ben and Ann Marie Sanders
Deborah and Marshall Wais

Supporters - \$100 - \$250

Anonymous
Marcia Beck
Liz Blasquez
John and Sharon Brauman
Joseph and Susan Cerny
Robert and Frances Connick
Joe and Liza Eto
Kate Godfrey
David and Helen Golden
Cecille and Jeff Harris
Irene and Kiyoshi Katsumoto
Sung-Hou and Rosalind Kim
Katie Krolikowski
Alex Madonik
John McCarthy and Kathy Barnhart
Kathy McLean
Arthur Nakashima
Carolyn North and Herbert Strauss

Alan Poon

Matthew Reagan
Hans Georg Ritter
JD Trow

Friend - \$25 - \$100

Sara Armstrong
Graham R. Fleming and Jean McKenzie
Rudy and Nell Glauser
Jack and Birthe Kirsch
Liana Klivansky
Mimi and Les Kramer
Victoria and Richard Luibrand
James Lutz
Nancy Morton
Alex and Ditsa Pines
Jan Setchko
Kirk Smith and Joan Diamond
David Stronck
Joan and Sam Teller
Sally West and Peter Conpton
David Wight

Special Thanks

Nancy Wilson – for a generous donation of student science books and teaching materials



CRS

1375 Ada Street, Berkeley, CA 94702
(510)527-5212 • www.crscience.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Oakland, CA

Permit # 35

Check us out online!

www.crscience.org

CRS STAFF UPDATE



The mission of CRS is to build a community of educators dedicated to getting kids excited about learning through science. This community includes YOU! Whether you're a teacher, a scientist, a parent, or an informal educator, let us help you connect with elementary students, schools, or science programs to support great science teaching.

This September we bid a fond farewell to Program Coordinator Cecille Harris as she moved with her family to Denver, CO – and welcomed in her place Heidi Williamson.

Heidi comes to us from Madison, WI, where she studied science at the University of Wisconsin and worked on science education ranging from nanotechnology exhibit design and outreach to research on teaching and learning.

In addition to her science communication experience, Heidi is skilled at Web site design and database management – and most important of all she has a passion for inspiring others about science.

CRS Office: 1611 San Pablo Ave.,
Suite 10B, Berkeley, CA 94702

Mailing Address: 1375 Ada Street,
Berkeley, CA 94702

CRS STAFF AND BOARD

Staff

Anne Jennings
Nicki Norman
Heidi Williamson

Consultants

Susie Bellone
Corinn Brown
Hugo Evans/end2end Tech
Kari Gim
Loren Hayden
Sherry Johnson
Nancy Morton
Melissa Salazar

Board Members

Robert Bergman
Susan Henderson
Anne Jennings
Susan Kattchee
Nicki Norman
Michael Ranney
Ben Sanders

Community Resources for Science
(510)527-5212 ~ teach@crscience.org
www.crscience.org