



Community Resources for Science

practical support for great science teaching

Volume 5, Issue 2

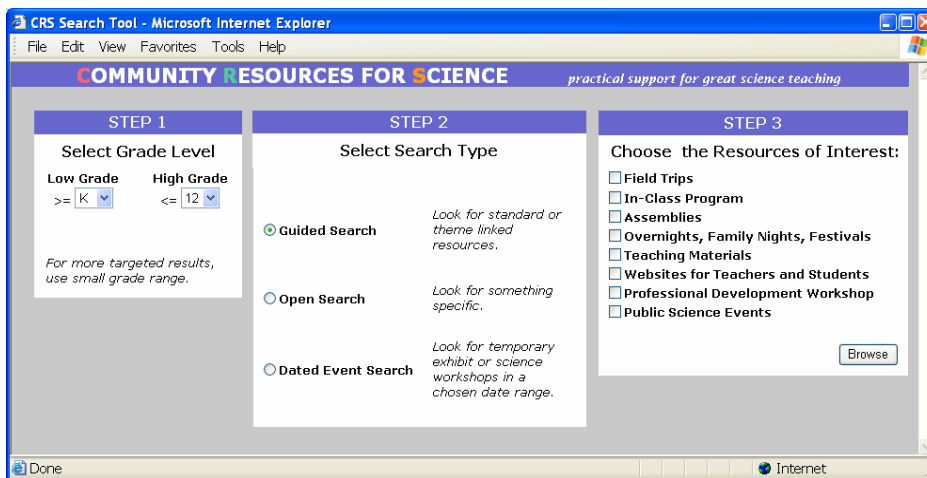
Newsletter, Fall 2007

CRS Unveils New Searchable Database!

Have you ever been up past midnight planning your science lessons and wished that one of the CRS staff would be there to tell you what educational programs or websites or materials you might be able to use to enhance your plans? Well now you can have access to our database of resources 24/7!

Our new online search tool allows you several options for how to search for what you want. Want to find things related to the 5th grade physical science standards? Go into the Guided Search and select the “chemistry” and “atoms” boxes and you’ll get a report of programs, websites, materials and workshops that could help you in your planning.

You can also choose much broader topics. If you are looking for resources on crayfish, use the Open Search option and type “crayfish” in the Topic box. You’ll find a host of resources on crayfish. You can print what you find, link directly to organizations’ websites, or browse indefinitely through the thousands of resources CRS has researched.



*CRS resource information is now online, available 24/7 and FREE!
Our new Database is ready for your searches. Try it today on our website at www.crs-science.org, click on “Search Online Database”.*

If you don’t find exactly what you want, need us to make an arrangement for you, or feel like there is more research to be done, you can still call or email CRS to have us do the leg work for you. Our database is a dynamic organism that we constantly update and add to. Check back often and let us know what’s missing or needs a little more development. We rely on your feedback to improve our

services so that they meet your needs.

So, get started by registering today! Log on to www.crs-science.org and click on “Search Online Database.” The service is FREE.

Please let us know what you like about the new web search tool, and how it can be improved. We like to learn from you! *Note: If your web browser is not Internet Explorer, please be patient while we work out technical difficulties and try again using Explorer.*

Welcome OUSD Lead Teachers!

This fall, CRS welcomed more than 60 new members from Oakland Unified Schools! Thanks to a collaboration with OUSD and elementary science coordinator John Stangl, a lead science teacher from each Oakland school now enjoys the benefits of one full year of CRS membership. OUSD lead teachers were well represented at the recent CRS Social at Chabot Space and Science Center (more on this on page 2).

CRS is delighted to serve as a resource for OUSD’s science lead teachers, as well as teachers throughout Alameda County. Not yet a member of CRS? Join today! Log on to www.crs-science.org and join online! You may also call us at 510-527-5212 or email teach@crs-science.org.

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Scientist Classroom Outreach Continues to Expand

Last year's successful pilot of a "Lab Teams" approach to classroom outreach on the UC Berkeley campus has led to significant expansion. We're branching out from the enthusiastic contributions made by the Chemistry department to include new teams from Microbiology as well as a coordinated effort by the Entomology Students Association (ESO) to develop presentations for each elementary grade level.

Campus liaison Stavroula Hatzios, a third-year graduate student in the Bertozzi group, is working to reach out to new grad student groups, assisted by Alex Mastroianni from the Alivisatos group. Both Stavroula and Alex have participated in Team projects and recount their experiences to inspire their colleagues to get involved. Stavroula describes how

students get excited by their presentation, "*How to Think Like a Scientist*," which includes solving a ransom-note mystery with ink chromatography. Alex relates some of the advanced questions their presentation on Polymers have generated from 5th-graders: "One student asked, 'What's nanotechnology good for?' which is something we ask ourselves every day."



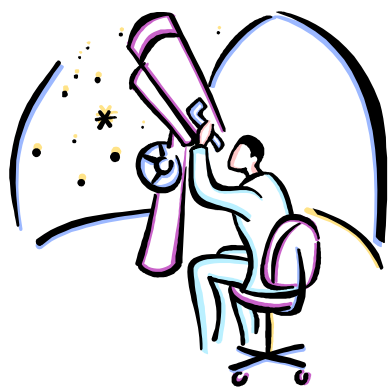
CIC volunteers Hector (L) and Stavroula (R), with CRS staff member Cecille, happily model new Community in the Classroom volunteer t-shirts at a Chemistry Department event.

Community in the Classroom is growing in all directions! In addition to the expanded Teams program, we continue to engage individuals from the community in designing and presenting their own hands-on, standards-based activities. And by the end of the school year we hope to expand the intensive "Scientist Teacher Partnership" program into new schools in Berkeley.

Volunteers: interested in getting colleagues involved? We can make a presentation to your research group or professional organization, or just work with you to involve colleagues in an outreach plan.

Teachers: look for your invitations to sign up for volunteer classroom presentations in your email inbox or mailbox. Remember, sign-ups are first-come first-served!

Be CuRious: New Rates, Free Buses, Great Programs in Oakland



CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Recent Science Social! On October 18, CRS kicked off the new school year with an exhilarating Science Social at Chabot Space and Science Center. More than 20 teachers and friends joined us in learning about new programs at Chabot and other Bay Area resources. The evening culminated in a personalized tour of Chabot's facilities and its awesome telescopes!

Micronauts New at Chabot this year

is *Micronauts*, a "junior astronauts" program for students in grades K-3. **Free buses** are offered to Oakland teachers who reserve this program. Currently, the program is only available on Wednesdays, and limited space is available for the rest of the year. Contact: Lisa Maral at (510) 336-7381. Chabot also offers a **reduced rate** of \$5.50 per student (half-price admission) for any group visiting Chabot as part of an organized class field trip.

Fun Networking Opportunities

Looking for an energizing new way to share classroom ideas and network with teachers from the Bay Area and beyond? One Saturday each month, Chabot's NEST and FEAST programs offer just that. Network of Elementary Science Teachers (NEST) and its predecessor, Fun Exchanges and Activities for Science Teachers (FEAST), provide facilitated teacher workshops at Chabot. The teacher-driven agenda and informal atmosphere help make this a popular teacher retreat.

New topics and dates are posted monthly on Chabot's website at www.chabotspace.org, or contact Stan Fukunaga at (510)336-7322.

OAKLAND MUSEUM

Don't let a lack of funds for programs or transportation deter you from visiting the Oakland Museum! All Oakland school groups enjoy free admission as well as a special reduced rate for Oakland Museum's docent-led classroom programs. For non-Oakland schools, admission is only \$1 per person.

Interested in **free buses** to and from Oakland Museum? Contact Amy Billstrom at (510) 238-3818 to see if your school qualifies.

ASK CRS TO SCHEDULE YOUR FIELD TRIP!

Remember, CRS can help you fill out forms, submit your name in field trip lotteries, and schedule your next field trip!

CRS Supports Development of New Teachers

Our Teacher Services program is exploring ways to support science skills of new elementary teachers and attract new candidates into teaching. Conversations with local teacher credentialing programs and CalTeach, an undergraduate science, math, and engineering teacher development program at UC Berkeley, have revealed opportunities for CRS to help new and developing teachers.

Last spring CRS experimented with a new workshop for credential candidates at California State University East Bay and their mentor teachers in local elementary schools. The workshop was designed to help students develop stronger science lessons collaboratively with their mentor teachers. During the workshop, the student and mentor teachers explored basic Inquiry teaching techniques, tools to help science lessons reach multiple curriculum goals, and the range of resources available to support enriched and engaging science instruction. Based on the enthusiastic reception of this first workshop, we will be offering other sessions to CSUEB credential candidates again this year.

The CalTeach program offers classes and field placement experiences for undergraduates that reduce the credentialing time required after graduation. CRS is excited to offer a class in the program to support positive first experiences with elementary-level science teaching.

The course, which will be offered in spring 2008, plans to draw on the experience of CRS leader teachers as well as introduce the students to techniques, standards-based activities, and fun resources that can help them provide strong science classroom support.

In addition to these targeted efforts, we have also discovered that the Community in the Classroom Project has had some unexpected benefits in this area. Several of our scientist graduate students report that they have developed an interest in teaching due to their experiences with elementary students. One volunteer let us know that his experience with us was a factor in obtaining a university teaching job.

We look forward to expanding these efforts and are happy to celebrate every new teacher that can help bring the pleasures of active exploration to more students!



Teachers enjoy networking at the CRS Fall Science Social at Chabot Space and Science Center.

Photo courtesy of Alex Madonik

Thanks to our Donors: 2007

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Check us out online!
www.crscience.org

CRS Wish List		CRS Staff and Board
<p>Have you always wanted to contribute something to CRS but can't think of what we might need (besides a cash donation!)? Here's a wish list – please contact us if you have, or know of, a source for any of these things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Office space</u> – yes, it's time to move back to a central location! • <u>Board members</u> – people with education, science, fundraising experience. • <u>Scientist volunteers</u> – join our Community in the Classroom outreach program. • <u>Lead teachers</u> interested in sharing knowledge/skills. • New (or updated) science education <u>program information</u> for the database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science <u>teaching materials</u> we can share with other teachers. • Lightly-used <u>office furniture and equipment</u> for our new office space. • Ideas for <u>funding</u> opportunities. <p>Please email or call if you have something to share! teach@crscience.org (510) 527-5212</p> <p><i>The mission of CRS</i> 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.</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Anne Jennings Nicki Norman Cecille Harris</p> <p><u>Consultants</u> Susie Bellone Corinn Brown Denise Davila Hugo Evans/end2end Tech Sherry Johnson Nancy Morton Loren Hayden</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Susan Henderson Susan Kattchee Michael Ranney Ben Sanders Anne Jennings Nicki Norman</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Resources for Science (510)527-5212 ~ teach@crscience.org www.crscience.org</p>