



**CREEC
NETWORK**
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION
COMMUNITY

Delta Sierra CREEC

www.creec.org/region6

AMADOR, CALAVERAS, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES

FALL 2007

This newsletter is a publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. CREEC is administered by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies. CREEC Region 6 Coordinators are housed at the Calaveras, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus County Offices of Education.

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California's Instructional School Garden

Linking Education, Activity, and Food through School Gardens

Congratulations to the over 140 school sites throughout region 6 who will be receiving funding from CDE through the California's Instructional School Garden grant program! The Modesto Jr. College Agriculture Department and the CREEC Network are partnering to support school sites with building or sustaining a successful school garden. Come join us at the **FREE Instructional School Garden Network** meeting on Wednesday, November 28th, 2007, 7:00pm-8:30pm at the MJC Ag. Dept. Building, room 126. Pre-register by contacting Anna Marie Facha, 209-238-1315 or afacha@stancoe.org.



A Child's Garden of Standards

This guide is designed to show how garden-based education strongly supports the state's academic content standards. It is based on the premise that a garden in every school can help make the standards come alive. The guide links specific activities to standards in science, history-social science, mathematics, and English-language arts for grades two through six. You



can order your guide or download the guide for free at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/garden.asp>.

School Garden Course for Teachers

In Spring 2008, Don Borges, Instructor for MJC's Agriculture and Environmental Science Department will be offering a hands-on course specifically designed for school staff to incorporate school gardens into their classroom and afterschool curriculum. EHS 291& 292: **Environmental Horticulture Science Teaching Strategies** will explore the California Science Curriculum Standards as they relate to teaching strategies in the school garden. Participants will also develop an action plan to incorporate environmental horticulture science at their school site. **Great Teacher Networking * Classroom Resources * Free Garden Materials.** Additional Information can be obtained by contacting Don Borges at 209.575.6200.

Thematic Explorations Library: Check out the growing Thematic Explorations Library for classroom stories, curriculum connections, how-to articles, related Web sites, and more. The collection covers topics ranging from Bringing Art to Life in Schoolyards to Growing a School Garden Business. www.kidsgardening.com/themes/theme-spash.asp.

EE Workshops, Contests, and Resources

Region 6

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River of Words Monday, Dec. 3rd 4-7pm, Calaveras COE

"The moon voice shouts out brilliant twilight through acres of black sky."
Luis Castillo, age 10

River of Words (ROW) is a nature-based science, art and poetry program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy and the arts. Through their annual youth art and poetry contest and educator's tools, River of Words helps young people explore the natural and cultural history of their own communities. This workshop will provide K-12 educators with ideas and inspiration for integrating nature exploration and the arts into core subject areas like science, math, social studies, and language arts. For this and more information about the Amador/Calaveras EE Inservice Series contact Wendy Harrison, 209-736-6009 or go to www.creec.org/region6. \$25 covers dinner, materials, and instruction.



"Science for All" CASEL Conference

Wednesday, January 23rd, 2008, San Joaquin County Office of Education

This year's keynote speaker is Kate Kinsella, Ed.D., a teacher educator in the Department of Secondary Education at San Francisco State University. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions include: Implementing New Instructional Materials, Critical Labs, Academic Language Development, Standards Aligned Investigation and Experimentation Activities, CDE Updates, and Creating Meaningful Assessment. For registration and more information visit www.edserv.sjcoe.net/casel or call

Disney's Environmentality Challenge (DEC): Be An Eco Star

Open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes. Join this effective, fun, and interactive way to heighten students' awareness of their role in protecting the environment. Encourage your students to share their ideas about the impor-



tance of the environment and ways they can help at school and home. Fifth grade classes can also choose to complete an environmental project, dig deep into the subject, and document the results in a project portfolio. Use the project to teach your academic content standards and improve your local environment too! All classes will receive DEC gifts for participating and the class with the winning project will get an all expense paid trip to Disneyland this spring. For more information and an enrollment form go to www.deckids.com. Need help getting started? Contact Conni Bock, your regional CREEC-DEC coordinator, 209-468-9119 or cbock@sjcoe.org.

Coastal Art and Poetry Contest is open to California K-12 students to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teachers will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Students may have their work featured on the Coastal Commission web pages and materials. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2008. For rules and entry form, visit www.coastforyou.org.

**Green California Schools Summit: December 4-6,
Pasadena Conference Center, Pasadena CA**



Summit & Exposition
Greening Schools in the Golden State

December 4-6, 2007
Pasadena Conference Center - Pasadena, CA

About the Green California Schools Summit - <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/attendee.htm>

California is on the leading edge of the green school movement, creating a statewide framework and incentives for sustainable schools. This groundbreaking event will focus on the strategies, technologies and services that will ensure that new and existing public schools are models of sustainability and provide healthy learning environments for students. Keynote speakers include Ed Begley Jr. and Bill Nye. **Mention the CREEC Network and receive a 10% discount on your conference registration.**

Energy Quest: Visit this award winning energy education website of the California Energy Commission. Your students will find an interactive room to learn about energy and energy conservation through the Movie Room, Energy Vampires, Time Machine, Solar Facts, and the Change a Light-Change the World program. Teachers can also click on the apple on the desk to find many Energy Education Resources including: the Ca. Energy Education Resource Directory, How to Start an Energy Patrol, books about energy, A+ for Energy Grant information, lesson plans, teacher trainings, and workshops. Go to www.energyquest.ca.gov.

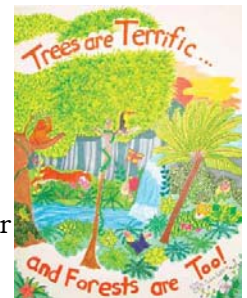


Water Facts and Fun: The California Department of Water Resources offers water education materials at No Charge. School Education Materials can be ordered from their Web site or you can print out an order form and send it in by mail. To see a listing of K-12 school materials currently available, browse through their Water Facts and Fun catalog or contact Carolyn Tucker, 916.653.9892 email Carolyn@water.ca.gov. Resources include Student Workbooks, Hands-On Water Activities, Flannel Board Stories, Wall Posters and more.



Leaf it to Us is designed to assist children in becoming motivated to care for an improve their education environment. The purpose of the program is to distribute funds for community tree-planting projects involving school children. **Application deadline is January 12, 2008.** For more information visit www.ufe.org.

“Trees are Terrific Inside and Out!” All California 5th graders are invited to participate in the annual **Arbor Day National Poster Contest** sponsored by Toyota and the National Arbor Day Foundation, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Community Forests Foundation. You can receive a curriculum packet from your local CREEC Coordinator or by contacting Kay Antunez, Contest Coordinator 916.653.7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov. Cash prizes for students and gift certificates for teachers of the top three award winners. Deadline March 1, 2008. California’s Arbor Day is celebrated March 7-14. More information and teacher resources go to www.arborday.org.



“Out of the Box” Learning for Science Students: Exemplary Science in Informal Education Settings, a new book released by NSTA Press shows real-world examples of how science education reform has taken hold in museums, science centers, zoos, and aquariums as well as on television, radio, and the internet. The book makes it clear that Standards-based learning isn’t limited to the nine-month school year and six-hour school day. As editor John Falk writes, “The focus on informal settings in this volume represents an important milestone in the science education community’s progress toward a more holistic view of lifelong science learning”. To read a sample chapter and order go to: www.nsta.org.

VISIT WWW.CREEC.ORG/REGION6 FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS



Environmental Education Information



What miracle happens when Nicholas and his grandfather push aside all thoughts of material Christmas traditions to care for a young cardinal trapped during a **Christmas Eve Blizzard?**

Written by Andrea Vlahakis and Illustrated by Emanuel Schongut

Great Backyard Bird Count

You and your students can participate in the national GBBC February 15-18, 2008. Contact your local Audubon Chapter or go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc/

No Child Left Inside



Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) introduced legislation that strengthens and expands environmental education in America's classrooms and reconnects children with nature. These bills, each titled the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007, were introduced in the House (H.R.3036) and the Senate (S.1981). The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 amends the NCLB law in the following ways:

- Provides federal funding to states to train teachers in EE and to operate model EE programs which include outdoor learning.
- Provides funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate.
- Provides funding through an EE grant program to build state and national capacity.
- Re-establishes the Office of EE within the U.S. Department of Education.

To find out more about the proposed legislation, visit the EE and the No Child Left Behind page at www.naaee.org.

Education and the Environment Initiative



The CREEC Network is working with the Office of Education and the Environment at the CA Integrated Waste Management Board to provide teacher support in the school district selected for field testing the model curriculum. Field testing is underway on the units available and will increase as more units are completed. Public review is available on the draft units. Check www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei for posted units. Reviewer application are still being accepted. If you are interested in applying, visit [www.creec.org/stories/storyReader\\$198](http://www.creec.org/stories/storyReader$198) to obtain an application.

National Environmental Education & training Foundation (NEETF)



which sponsors National EE Week, has prepared a handout on the Benefits of Environmental Education that highlights how EE creates enthusiastic students and innovative teacher leaders, builds critical thinking, fosters leadership qualities, makes school subjects rich and relevant, teachers students to be problem-solvers and self-directed learners, and equal chances for academic success. This publication can be downloaded at www.eeweek.org/pdf/EE_Benefits.pdf.

The California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN)



is a consortium of environmental educators representing California state departments, boards, and commissions with oversight responsibility to protect California's environment. They offer numerous resources to teachers. Link to the various agencies through www.calepa.ca.gov/education/CEEIN/default.htm.