

THE CONNECTICUT BUILDING A PRESENCE FOR SCIENCE NETWORK IS SUSTAINED THROUGH THE ADVOCACY OF THE CCAT, CONNECTICUT SCIENCE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION, AND THE CONNECTICUT SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NAMES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF OUR POINTS OF CONTACT AND KEY LEADERS ARE NOT SHARED WITH ANY OTHER ENTITY

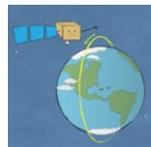
Resources



Connecticut Science Teachers Association
"...to inspire, promote and support the learners of science in the state of Connecticut."
Science Professional Development Opportunities! Are you interested in high quality, low cost, Teacher Professional Development opportunities? Visit the [CSTA website](#) and click on Opportunities. You will not be disappointed. Contact us if you have questions.



Click on the link to learn more about JPSS! <https://scijinks.gov/subscribe/>



Meet JPSS

(short for Joint Polar Satellite System) is a series of high tech satellites that keep an eye on the weather and environment. These satellites circle the Earth from North Pole to South Pole 14 times each day as the planet spins below. This allows JPSS to see the whole Earth twice every day.

SOME OF THE INSTITUTES IN THIS NEWSLETTER STILL HAVE A FEW SPACES AND IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE! PLEASE CHECK END OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR A NEW LAST MINUTE ADDITION!



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Summer issue of the CASE Bulletin is [now available](#). In this issue:

- *Unlocking the Mysteries of Dyslexia; Finding the Keys to Successful Intervention*
- *Yale's Schoelkopf Honored with 2017 Connecticut Medal of Science*
- **News from the National Academies:**
 - Strengthening America's Skilled Technical Workforce
 - Foundational Cybersecurity Research Strategies
 - Global Health and the Future Role of the US
 - Report Urges Protection of Research Integrity
 - Undergraduate Research Experiences in STEM
- **IN BRIEF: Science and Technology News from Around the State**

Green Teacher

Green Teacher has recently launched a YouTube Channel. To date, we've posted 8 videos on our website, with several more in various editing stages. In time, we hope this will grow into a valuable resource for educators. Among those currently posted, are those describing:

- + How Google Earth was used by high school students as part of an invasive species removal project
- + How an elementary school in a northern resource town created partnerships so that their students could explore the natural and cultural environment in their area.
- + How to build better bug houses – and pack waste free lunches.

Check out the posted videos here: <https://greenteacher.com/check-out-these-videos/>

Upcoming webinars

Check out these webinars at the following site:

<http://greenteacher.com/webinars/> where you can also learn

Best Practices in School Gardens, Presenter: Mary Dudley
Wednesday, September 27th 2017, 7:30-8:30pm EST

Eco-System Monitoring Programs, Presenter: Daniel Shaw
Wednesday, October 25th 2017, 7:30-8:30pm EST, [Register](#)

<http://greenteacher.com/webinars/>

We're keen to both receive short (i.e. 2-6 minute), practical videos – edited or unedited – from teachers and other youth educators on a wide variety of topics. Like the articles and activities we seek for *Green Teacher* magazine, we're looking for innovative green learning strategies on a wide variety of topics. Your presentation should provide sufficient detail and enough guidance that will enable viewers to replicate the activity in their own communities. Your video should specify early on the age group for which your learning activity or strategy is most appropriate. For more details of what we're looking for, check out:

<https://greenteacher.com/send-us-your-videos/>

Finally, if you see a short enviro-ed video that deserves a wider audience, send us a quick note about it.

Tim Grant, Editor

, tim@greenteacher.com,



CT DEEP is designing some new opportunities for educators to access professional development that helps build understanding of science, environment and sustainability. Part of the development includes improved communication about trainings, webinars and programs offering stipends to educators or schools.

We will be using a newsletter, **The Trillium**, to keep educators informed. The first newsletter will be sent out in late July. If you would like to be part of this notification system please complete the information requested in this link... [Trillium Registration](#)

Curriculum Collaboration Day, August 10th

Announcing the first "Curriculum Collaboration Day" to be held on Thursday, August 10th, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, at JAD Middle School in Southington, CT.

With so many districts writing curriculum units there have been requests for a collaborative effort to help move CT forward as we continue to transition to the NGSS. This is an opportunity to bring what you are writing or implementing and obtain feedback from people doing similar work. But for this to be a collaborative effort all participants must bring something to the table (can be at any step in the writing/implementing process).

I know the timing is not great but it gives people time to revise and plan prior to the start of the 17-18 school year. There is no cost but you will need to bring your own lunch. We hope to follow this up with something similar in the spring.

Please register by completing the Google form

at <https://goo.gl/forms/4WoQpUiufh90luOz1>. This information is necessary for planning purposes. Contact John Duffy at: jduffy@southingtonschools.org with any questions. John Duffy, PreK-12 Science Curriculum Coordinator, Southington Public Schools, South End Elementary School, [860-628-3320](tel:860-628-3320) x325

CASE STUDY CONFERENCE Join us for our annual Fall Case Study Teaching in Science Conference, September 15-16, 2017, in Buffalo, NY, sponsored by the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science. We are at a new venue this year—the beautiful Buffalo Marriott Niagara.

Our conference offers sessions for both the beginner and advanced case study teacher and is formatted for college and high school teachers. In addition to our distinguished group of session teachers, we have brought in a noted scholar to address the general conference; Briana Pobiner, Paleoanthropologist and Educator, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and Associate Research Professor, Department of Anthropology, George Washington University, Washington, DC, to present on the "Effectiveness of Using Human Case Studies to Teach Evolution."

Workshop sessions this year will cover teaching with "flipped" case studies, combining team-based learning and case studies, using cases across multiple classes, personalizing the curriculum, and more!

Our conference is led by Dr. Clyde (Kipp) Herreid, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and Director of the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science. The conference is open to anyone interested in case study education, including high school teachers and international teachers. It also includes a poster session and we would be pleased if you submitted a proposal by September 1, 2017.

Register now for this rewarding two-day Case Study Teaching in Science Conference, September 15-16, 2017. <http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/>



Goddard Space Center has a whole series of webinars for you to join this summer. Go to <https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddards-summer-stem-workshop-for-educators-2017> to see what is available.

NEW MATERIALS, PROJECTS NASA

<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html>

• STEM+ Program for PreK-3
Teachers •

An Online Three-Course Program
that Takes Your Science beyond
STEM to STEM+

University of Missouri-St. Louis

The [University of Missouri-St. Louis](#) (UMSL) is pleased to offer an online STEM+ program through which PreK-3 teachers can learn how to blend science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (the “three-dimensions” of science described in the [Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) and the [Next Generation Science Standards](#)) with their own district’s reading and language arts programs, areas so critical to primary grade instruction. See details [here](#) or contact us by [Email](#) to become a STEM+ specialist. Please share our STEM+ announcement (<http://bit.ly/2qP9iSw>) with your preK-3 colleagues. Thanks. Your STEM+ Team at matthewscc@umsl.edu



Invitation to all Connecticut Science teachers to attend the 21st Annual GLOBE Conference here in New Haven. July 30-August 3, 2017
Open to both adults and students
The 21st Annual GLOBE Conference will be hosted here in New Haven by SCSU. GLOBE is the single largest, most heavily funded/leveraged and longest running educator/scientist and citizen science initiative (over 117 countries participating). GLOBE is a powerful organization for fostering collaboration among educators and environmental scientists. The annual conference moved internationally and this year we were asked to host it here in CT. Please see the GLOBE.GOV website and the announcement for the conference. Phone: 2033926604
[Globe Conference New Haven](#)
From: Scott M Graves
Reply-To: gravess1@southernct.edu

Guide PBS Education's Work Today to Improve Resources for
Teachers Tomorrow!

Would you like to help shape the resources and services PBS Education offers teachers across the United States?

Join our new research panel to share your insights! UPDATE: We encourage participation from teachers across the preK-12 spectrum – but in order to balance our current panel numbers, we are seeking preschool-3rd grade teachers. We appreciate your help in spreading the word!

PBS Teachers' Advisory Group Members:

Provide instant feedback through an easy, online survey once or twice a month.

Share opinions on our curriculum resources, professional development offerings, and other programs in development.

Weigh in on a variety of topics including teacher needs, best practices, classroom experiences and more.

To join the PBS Teachers' Advisory Group, please click (the working) 'Join Now' button below where you can access the qualification and screening

questionnaire.

[Join Now](#)

The information you provide will be kept confidential and only shared in aggregate with PBS staff.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES (NIEHS) recently developed a [Climate and Health learning module](#) for use in high school classrooms interested in exploring the health impacts of climate change. It promotes learning about the complex interactions between climate change, the environment and human health and uses content from the US Global Change Research Program’s 2016 report, [The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment](#). The materials are free of charge and can be adapted for other grades and informal educational settings. The module integrates multiple science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross cutting concepts for earth and life science.

NSTA Safety Blog!

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students will be participating in hands-on activities and demonstrations, which means that safety must be addressed. For a safer and more memorable learning and teaching experience, check out the NSTA Safety Blog:

<http://nstacommunities.org/blog/category/safety>

Why use the Blog?

· To share up-to-date information on legal safety standards and better professional practices for a safer working and learning environment and a safer STEM instructional experience; To disseminate current information on safety incidents occurring in K–12 classrooms, labs, and maker spaces; · To provide support and initiate dialogue in efforts to answer safety-related questions from bloggers, either teaching or supervising in K–12 classrooms, labs, and maker spaces. Anyone can subscribe for free! Just go to the blog address above to the bottom of the page. Follow instructions for a complimentary subscription!



2017 *eesmarts* Summer Institute



As part of the Energize Connecticut initiative, **eesmarts** is an energy efficiency and clean energy educational program designed to facilitate students' understanding of the science, math and technology related to energy efficiency, clean energy sources and electricity.

The **eesmarts** program offers Professional Development workshops led by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) free-of-charge to K-12 formal and informal educators across the State of Connecticut. Workshops are interactive and cross disciplinary, featuring inquiry-based, hands-on activities.

The **eesmarts** Summer Institute, held in July, gives educators a chance to attend intensive one or three-day workshops on various energy-related topics. The **eesmarts** Team continues its partnership with Project Learning Tree (PLT) GreenSchools! Investigations and several PLT workshops will be conducted in conjunction with our **eesmarts** Summer Institute.



Benefits of attending an **eesmarts** Summer Institute Workshop include:

- cc: Receive \$100 stipend (per day)
- dd: Receive free program lessons and materials for your classroom. All **eesmarts** and Project Learning Tree lessons are fully aligned with the Connecticut State Science Framework, Next Generation Science Standards, and Common Core Standards for Math & English Language Arts.
- ee: Gain knowledge, confidence and skills for teaching your students about energy, energy conservation, renewable energy sources and efficient technologies
- ff: Receive a pass to one of the following Energize Connecticut museum partners:
 Connecticut Science Center (Hartford)
 Discovery Museum (Bridgeport)
 Stepping Stones Museum for Children (Norwalk)

Register for a Workshop!

Visit: www.eesmarts.com/workshops
or Call: 877-514-2594

2017 *eesmarts* Summer Institute Workshop Schedule

All workshops will be conducted from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. To review each workshop's agenda, topics covered and to register, please visit: www.eesmarts.com/workshops

There are a limited number of seats available for each workshop so register today.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>JULY 10 Solar Energy Day 1 (GR. 6-12) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p> <hr/> <p>PLT – Recycling (GR. 4-8) LEARN</p>	<p>JULY 11 Solar Energy Day 2 (GR. 6-12) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p> <hr/> <p>PLT – Water (GR. 4-8) LEARN</p>	<p>JULY 12 Solar Energy Day 3 (GR. 6-12) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p> <hr/> <p>Energy (GR. K-2) CREC CENTRAL</p>	<p>JULY 13 Wind Energy (GR. 6-12) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p> <hr/> <p>Energy (GR. K-2) EASTCONN</p>	JULY 14	<p>JULY 15 Energy Transformations (GR. 3-5) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>
<p>JULY 17 Recycling (GR. 1-5) WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER</p>	<p>JULY 18 Weather (GR. K-2) EASTCONN</p>	<p>JULY 19 Energy Transformations (GR. 6-8) CREC CENTRAL</p>	<p>JULY 20 Energy Transformations (GR. 3-5) WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER</p>	JULY 21	<p>JULY 22 Weather (GR. K-2) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>
<p>JULY 24 Solar Energy Day 1 (GR. 6-12) CREC CENTRAL</p> <hr/> <p>Climate Change Intro (GR. 3-8) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>	<p>JULY 25 Solar Energy Day 2 (GR. 6-12) CREC CENTRAL</p> <hr/> <p>Energy Challenge (GR. 3-5) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>	<p>JULY 26 Solar Energy Day 3 (GR. 6-12) CREC CENTRAL</p> <hr/> <p>Climate Change Advance (GR. 9-12) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>	<p>JULY 27 Wind Energy (GR. 6-12) CREC CENTRAL</p> <hr/> <p>PLT – Energy (GR. 4-8) ENERGIZE CT CENTER</p>	JULY 28	<p>JULY 29 Energy Transformation (GR. 6-8) DISCOVERY MUSEUM</p>

LOCATIONS

Energize Connecticut Center
122 Universal Drive North
North Haven, CT 06473

CREC Central
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

LEARN
44 Hatchetts Hill Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Discovery Museum
4450 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

EastConn
376 Hartford Turnpike
Hampton, CT 06247

White Memorial Conservation Center
80 Whitehall Rd
Litchfield, CT 06759



CUT
Empowering you to make
smart energy choices



Energize Connecticut – programs funded by a charge on customer energy bills.

C0125 04/17



2017 Climate Education Academy

Tri-Agency Climate Education (TrACE) Collaborative and MADE CLEAR
Tuesday, August 8, 2017 - 09:00 to Thursday, August 10, 2017 - 17:00

[Apply Now](#)

Climate change impacts our natural and engineered environments, our health, and our communities. You hear about it on the news, but are you prepared to teach about the global impacts of climate change and solutions? MADE CLEAR and NOAA invite educators in the Mid-Atlantic to apply for the 2017 Climate Education Academy.

Join us to learn about:

- The causes and effects of climate change
- How climate change impact your area
- Solutions and stewardship activities

Get up to speed on climate change and Earth System Science with a five-part on-line component before the face to face Academy. In August we will jump into climate change science with three dimensional lessons, interactions with climate science experts, authentic data analysis, and on-line simulations. Share your classroom experiences with others working to bring this important topic to their students.



Develop awareness of additional professional learning opportunities supporting earth systems science education

- [GLOBE Program](#)
- [Data Streme](#)
- and Others

You will receive classroom materials and resources to start your climate focused earth systems science teaching portfolio. You may earn professional certification hours based on participation and submission of a teaching plan. Lodging and meals will be provided.

Includes an on-line component

Location: Towson University campus, Maryland

For information visit www.madeclear.org/academy

To register, please complete this form (linked by the Apply Now button below)

or email pharcourt@umces.edu or bart.merrick@noaa.gov for information and questions.

The Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) has a long history of providing excellent resources and professional development



for teachers, and they have just published the Teacher-Friendly Guide™ to Climate Change. This book includes both the basics of climate change science and perspectives on teaching a subject that has become socially and politically polarized. The focus audience is high school Earth science and environmental science teachers, and it is written with an eye toward the kind of information and graphics that a secondary school teacher might need in the classroom.

You can download a free pdf of the book or purchase a hard copy [here](#) . A brief description and excerpt from the book (first chapter) are in a Geological Society of America blog post [here](#) . In addition, PRI has started a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to send the Teacher-Friendly Guide™ to Climate Change to teachers at public high schools across the country. You can join in this campaign or let your friends and family know about it by going to <http://bit.ly/TeachClimateScience> .



Climate Science & Education
Professional Development
Workshop:

*Resilience: It's Not Just Surviving
the Zombie Apocalypse*

University of Connecticut Avery
Point Campus, Groton,
Connecticut

Tuesday, July 11 through
Thursday, July 13, 2017

[Click here to register for the
workshop](#)

<https://goo.gl/FIraHz>

[NOAA's Climate Stewards
Education Project](#) (CSEP) and
[Connecticut Sea Grant](#) are
collaborating with Federal, State
and NGO partners to convene a
climate science and education
workshop for formal and
informal educators. Participants
will learn from and interact with
climate science, education and
communication experts. The
workshop will focus on topics of
climate science and resilience
strategies for the northeast
region of the United States, with
a goal of connecting educators
and their students and/or
audiences to the best available
science-based information and
pedagogic resources.

Registration for the workshop is
on a first come first serve basis
and the number of participants is
very limited! When enrollment
has reached capacity, online
registration will be closed.

Registration is \$40 per person. It
includes daily lunch, snacks, field
trips, and a plethora of resources!
Attendees are responsible for
arranging their own
transportation and lodging.

To register for the workshop you must fully complete the [online form](#) and send a check or purchase order to: Connecticut Sea Grant - Climate Workshop, 1080 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340.

You will receive an email confirming your participation in the workshop only when your registration fee has been processed. A detailed workshop itinerary, lodging and dining recommendations, and additional information will be sent to all confirmed registrants well in advance of the workshop. All attendees will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation in the workshop as well as the number of professional development hours earned.

For more info re: the overall workshop, contact Diana Payne at:
diana.payne@uconn.edu. phone: 860.405.9248

Questions re: your registration fee? contact Andrea Kelly at:
andrea.kelly@uconn.edu. phone: 860.405.9128

A professional development workshop for formal and informal educators who wish to:

- Increase their knowledge of climate science, and resilience strategies;
- Learn about climate impacts and adaptations in the northeastern US; and
- Translate climate science and resilience to the classroom and/or informal education settings.

Times: 8:30am - 5:00pm daily.

Place: [Marine Sciences Building, Room 103, The University of Connecticut - Avery Point, 1080 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340](#)

Primary Contacts:

- Diana Payne diana.payne@uconn.edu
- Molly Harrison Molly.Harrison@noaa.gov
- Bruce Moravchik Bruce.Moravchik@noaa.gov
- Peg Steffen Peg.Steffen@noaa.gov

Featured Activities:

- Presentations by scientists and educators on climate science and resilience.
- Activities to increase participant climate science knowledge.
- Activities and demonstrations on teaching climate, engaging in resilience activities and related topics.
- Connections to the [Next Generation Science Standards](#).

Notes on Food & Lodging:

- Lunch and snacks will be provided during the workshop.
- Participants must make their own travel and overnight arrangements. Lodging and dining recommendations and additional information, will be sent to all confirmed registrants well in advance of the workshop.

Professional Learning: Archaeology Field School for Educators

Dr. Brian Jones, State Archaeologist, CSMNH UConn Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14, 9 am to 3 pm, Windsor, CT Advance registration required: \$45 (\$35 for Museum Members and Donors) Educators will spend a week doing hands-on archaeology at the *Archaeology Field School for Teachers* sponsored by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at UConn and Office of State Archaeology. This field school is designed to give educators who teach history or social science in a classroom or museum setting a deeper appreciation of the importance of archaeology as a tool for learning about Connecticut's fascinating past. The field school will cover the basics of field methods, paperwork, data management, and artifact identification. Learning proper archaeological methods will develop the participant's understanding of the ethical aspects of archaeology and the archaeologist's responsibility to preserve the data they retrieve so that it will remain valuable to future researchers. These lessons provide a first step toward developing the skills needed to undertake your own archaeological investigations with students.

Participants will experience an authentic and significant archaeological investigation, working with primary sources at a historic site in Windsor, Connecticut. They will also learn about the role of the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and how it can be an important resource in developing archeological lessons and activities for students. Space is limited. To request a registration form please contact David Colberg at david.colberg@uconn.edu or 860.486.5690.



If you are interested in Modeling Workshops™, please visit our website: <http://tinyurl.com/2017modeling>.

More than 60 summer Modeling Workshops™ in high school physics, chemistry, physical science, biology, and middle school science will be offered, in many states. Most are two or three weeks long.

1. CEUs; optional graduate credit. Stipends at grant-funded sites.
2. Modeling Instruction is research-informed, interactive engagement pedagogy.
3. Ask your school administration to help pay. Mention the research on NGSS readiness: Modelers are better prepared to transition to NGSS than other teachers, research shows.

Website: <http://modelinginstruction.org>

Workshop descriptions: <http://www.phystec.org/pd/?set=Modeling>

ABOUT MODELING INSTRUCTION:

Modeling Instruction is designated as an Exemplary K-12 science program and a Promising Educational Technology program by the U.S. Department of Education.

Modeling Workshops are peer-led. Content is reorganized around basic models to increase its structural coherence. Participants are supplied with a complete set of course materials and work through activities alternately in roles of student or teacher, as they practice techniques of guided inquiry and cooperative learning. Models and theories are the purpose and the outcomes of scientific practices. They are tools for engineering design and problem solving. Thus, modeling guides all other practices.

Each MODELING WORKSHOP has these features:

- Aligned with National Science Education Standards
- Focuses on all 8 scientific practices of NRC Framework for K-12 Science Education.
- Addresses multiple learning styles.
- Addresses student naive conceptions.
- Collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking.
- Systems, models, modeling.
- Coherent curriculum framework, but not a curriculum; thus flexible.
- Compatible with Socratic methods, project-based instruction, PBL, etc.
- Science & math literacy.
- Authentic assessments.
- High-tech and low-tech options for labs.

<http://modelinginstruction.org/>

For 2017 Modeling Workshops™ <http://tinyurl.com/2017modeling>

NEW ADDITION!
PLEASE SEE BELOW:





**Sun, Moon and Earth: A Rare Glimpse of Eclipse Phenomenon!
Middle School Science NGSS Professional Development**

Anchoring NGSS learning to relevant scientific phenomena has been encouraged by national leaders. On Monday, August 21st, an eclipse of the sun will be observable from coast to coast, providing opportunity for students and teachers alike to directly observe a rare phenomenon.

The spectacular event is opportune as middle school teachers across Connecticut begin to develop and pilot NGSS-congruent classroom tasks. In this five-hour NESTA-hosted professional development event, middle school teachers will explore

and co-develop classroom activities to facilitate students' ability to demonstrate an NGSS performance expectation (MS-ESS1-1). Topics include safe observing methods (Engineering Design), classroom modeling of phenomenon, and research-based strategies to support argumentation.

Lunch, door prizes (Galileoscopes, radiometers), and professional development certificates will be provided.

Registration:

Member of one of the organizations listed below? Use code "nestact" for the 25% discount off the \$20 fee.

- American Association of Physics Teachers – New England Section
- Connecticut Science Teachers Association
- Connecticut Science Supervisors Association
- National Earth Science Teachers Association

Register by Friday, August 18th: regonline.com/nestapdaug19

Location, Date and Time:

Saturday, August 19th, 10:00 – 3:00
Talcott Mountain Science Center
324 Montevideo Road
Avon, Connecticut

Directions: <http://www.tmsc.org/contact/directions>

Contact Information: regonline.com/nestapdaug19



What Is Science Matters? Science Matters is an initiative by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science education to parents and teachers nationwide. Science Matters builds on the success of the Building a Presence for Science program, first launched in 1997 as an e-networking initiative to assist teachers of science with professional development opportunities. Building a Presence for Science—now Science Matters—reaches readers in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Why does Science Matter? Science is critical to understanding the world around us. Most Americans feel that they received a good education and that their children will as well. Unfortunately, not many are aware that international tests show that American students are simply not performing well in science when compared to students in other countries. Many students (and their parents!) believe that science is irrelevant to their lives. Innovation leads to new products and processes that sustain our economy, and this innovation depends on a solid knowledge base in science, math, and engineering. All jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. The most recent ten year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of them require significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully compete for a job. This is why Science Matters. Quality learning experiences in the sciences—starting at an early age—are critical to science literacy and our future workforce. Feel free to publish this information in school newsletters and bulletins, and share it with other parents, teachers, and administrators.