

Connecticut Science Supervisors Association



Newsletter
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President's Message

With district after district in Connecticut making large funding cuts, most of us are facing the prospect of difficulties trying to make plans for the next school year. Budgets for supplies are going to be very thin and some departments are already facing cuts in personnel as well. With the perspective of a long career in education behind me, I can predict that the next two years and more are going to be difficult for public education in Connecticut, even if the economy starts to pick up speed soon. Teachers are always behind the curve. When recession hit this year, school budgets and salaries remained under the more generous umbrella that was forged in happier times. And, some will be fortunate to continue to work under that protection next year. But with givebacks and new contracts being called for and even negotiated, most of us face potentially difficult times for the next few years, with thin supply budgets, reduced allocations for books, and token travel and professional development funds being the order of the day.

Even more unfortunately, science supervisors tend to have greater difficulties than other subject supervisors, because of the inevitable price increases for supplies while our budgets continue to shrink. It is going to be necessary for every science educator to be more creative than ever before, while we try to deliver the best product possible under this scenario. It's too bad that many of our legislators don't seem to understand the fact that dollars invested in education pay more dividends in increased property values and citizens that are able to increase the productivity of the economy.

I hope you will be able to recharge your batteries fully this summer, but you may also need some capacitors in your circuits when we begin again in late August. A couple of farads worth ought to do the job getting your motor started again.

Stay well,-Bruce Faitsch, President, CT Science Supervisors

Pre-Dinner May Workshop: Elizabeth Buttner, Charlene Tate Nichols

CSDE K-8 Science Consultant Liz Buttner and Math Consultant Charlene Tae Nichols will provide an overview of Connecticut's Science and Mathematics Coaching Initiative.

Imagine a school where all students use reasoning, logic and critical thinking to solve authentic problems in science or mathematics. Could your teachers more confidently achieve these goals if they had job-embedded, content-specific professional growth facilitated by a highly-trained instructional coach? CSDE science and mathematics consultants Liz Buttner and Charlene Tate Nichols will describe CSDE's Math-Science Partnership coaching academies and explain how your district could participate. You'll also hear from MSP coaches how academy training and district support have enabled them to impact teaching and learning in their schools.

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May Dinner Speaker: DR. MICHAEL KLENTSCHY

**Keynote Presentation:
Using Science to Improve
Student Learning in All Areas**

DR. MICHAEL KLENTSCHY was named Southern California Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators in 2001, and is co-author of Linking Science & Literacy in the K-8 Classroom and Scaffolding Science Inquiry Through Lesson Design. He is also author of Using Science Notebooks in Elementary Classrooms and a series of Scott Foresman books, including Science: See Learning in a Whole New Light.

He is presently an instructor at San Diego State University – Imperial Valley Campus School of Education, teaching and conducting research on the science-literacy connection, especially for English Learners in K-8 science, and conducting

research on alternate forms of assessment in elementary science. He is also part of a university research team studying the longitudinal effects of inquiry-based science programs on student achievement in several locations across the United States. From these research projects, he has authored numerous articles and written several books regarding science education and best practices.



May Sponsors

Thanks

to our May Dinner Meeting Sponsor,



Katie Arace of Carolina Biological

Please visit their website for information www.carolina.com, www.carolinacurriculum.com or contact

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SAVE THE DATES

May 13, Wednesday, CSSA Annual Membership/Dinner Meeting, 5:30 PM.
4 Points Hotel, Meriden,
Speaker Dr. Michael Klentschy, noted science education author and school superintendent

June 3, Wednesday, CSSA Board of Directors Meeting

October 17 Saturday,
Annual CT Science Educators Conference,
Hamden Middle School sponsored by CT Science Teachers Association and CT Science Supervisors Association

CSSA Professional Development

-Harry Rosvally

Professional Development Opportunities for 2009-2010

What a coincidence! Shortly after a subcommittee of the CSSA Board drafted and implemented a survey on professional development, the current president of NSTA published her monthly article in NSTA Reports – all about Professional Learning Communities!

(<http://www.nsta.org/publications/news/story.aspx?id=55895>) Here is what Page Keeley had to say: “One strong recommendation for professional development from [*Before It's Too Late*] is the need for schools and districts to form Inquiry Groups to meet regularly throughout the school year. The commission envisioned these groups as learning communities where teachers come together to share ideas, contribute to the knowledge base on teaching practice, learn from one another's experiences, engage in common studies to enrich their knowledge of teaching and learning, and design ways to incorporate new developments into their teaching.”

So what is happening with CSSA?

The results are in! The respondents to the CSSA survey included both CSSA members and non-members. The results showed they were most interested in the following four areas:

Developing effective PD

Coaching

State Assessments

Instructional Strategies / Pedagogy / Inquiry

The CSSA professional development committee is now making plans for 2009-2010 school year, we will begin a series of round table discussions before our dinner meetings on the topic of developing and delivering effective professional development. The texts we will be using include: The National Science Education Standards (NSES Chapter 4 – this is available free on-line: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=4962) and Designing Effective Math and Science Professional Development by Susan Loucks-Horsley et. al. It is suggested that you read these articles prior to the first meeting ... and what better time to read than over the summer? Bring them with you to our first pre-dinner workshop. Also bring copies of your readings on effective professional development. We will pair share and then create a list of characteristics of effective professional development based on your summer reading, other research and personal experiences.

In addition to our pre dinner round table discussions, study sessions will occur at agreed-upon locations or via technology between the dinner meeting workshops. Look for information about these in upcoming newsletters. Administrative CEUs will be provided to participants who meet requirements.

To continue with the CSSA goal to provide Professional Development that reflects the interest listed above, survey results have been shared with CSTA. The joint Annual Science Conference Day (October 17th at Hamden Middle School) will see workshop strands offered that reflect what CT teachers *and* supervisors want for their own professional development. Please see the call for presenters. We have a wealth of knowledge among CT educators – let's share it by presenting at the Annual Convention

SAFE SCIENCE: BE PROTECTED!

By Dr. Ken Roy

Director of Environmental Health & Safety, Glastonbury Public Schools, Glastonbury, CT 06033-3099;
Safety Compliance Consultant, NSTA, NSELA, ICASEcFax 860-652-7275, Email: Royk@glastonburyus.org

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MSDSs ARE TONIGHT?

CODE RED!

Would you know what to do if a student or you had a laboratory accident with a hazardous chemical? Equally important, would the responding school nurse know what to do? Has a protocol been established in case there is a "Code Red" in the science laboratory relative to finding out what hazardous chemical was used and what its exposure can do to the body?

OSHA wants your employer under the Laboratory Standard (29CFR1910.1450) to establish a written Chemical Hygiene Plan containing Standard Operating Procedures to be used in case such an emergency takes place. An integral part of that SOP is access to Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS. The access piece is actually located under the Hazard Communications Standard (HCS) (29CFR1910.1200). In essence, these two standards work in concert for the science teacher as an employee of the school district.

OSHA Says!

The requirement for MSDSs under the HazCom Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200 is referenced in several parts of the standard. The following quotes represent a few of the more important citations for science teachers relative to laboratory work and use of hazardous chemicals:

1910.1200(a)(1)

The purpose of this section is to ensure that the hazards of all chemicals produced or imported are evaluated, and that information concerning their hazards is transmitted to employers and employees. This transmittal of information is to be accomplished by means of comprehensive hazard communication programs, which are to include container labeling and other forms of warning, material safety data sheets and employee training.

1910.1200(e)(1)

Employers shall develop, implement, and maintain at each workplace, a written hazard communication program which at least describes how the criteria specified in paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of this section for labels and other forms of warning, material safety data sheets, and employee information and training will be met, and which also includes the following:

1910.1200(e)(1)(i)

A list of the hazardous chemicals known to be present using an identity that is referenced on the appropriate material safety data sheet (the list may be compiled for the workplace as a whole or for individual work areas); and,

1910.1200(q)(8)

The employer shall maintain in the workplace copies of the required material safety data sheets for each hazardous chemical, and shall ensure that they are readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s). (Electronic access, microfiche, and other alternatives to maintaining paper copies of the material safety data sheets are permitted as long as no barriers to immediate employee access in each workplace are created by such options.)

1910.1200(g)(10)

Material safety data sheets may be kept in any form, including operating procedures, and may be designed to cover groups of hazardous chemicals in a work area where it may be more appropriate to address the hazards of a process rather than individual hazardous chemicals. However, the employer shall ensure that in all cases the required information is provided for each hazardous chemical, and is readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s).

SAFE SCIENCE CONTINUED.....

IS THERE A SPECIFIC MSDS FORMAT REQUIRED?

MSDSs are a critical component of the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard. This standard mandates that workers such as science teachers have a right to know what hazards are associated with the chemicals they use in the workplace. Both manufacturers of chemicals and employers with chemicals in their workplace must be in compliance with this regulation as it is the most often cited violation by OSHA, with fines of more than \$70,000 per violation per instance.

The OSHA MSDS format has the following required categories that must be on every MSDS:

- Section I. Manufacturer's Name and Contact Information
- Section II. Hazardous Ingredients/Identity Information
- Section III. Physical/Chemical Characteristics
- Section IV. Fire and Explosion Hazard Data
- Section V. Reactivity Data
- Section VI. Health Hazard Data
- Section VII. Precautions for Safe Handling and Use
- Section VIII. Control Measures

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved an alternative format and published a standard Z400.1-1993, "American National Standard for Hazardous Industrial Chemicals-Material Safety Data Sheets-Preparation."

The 16 sections of an MSDS that are prescribed by the ANSI standard are as follows:

- Section 1. Chemical Product & Company Information
- Section. 2. Composition/Information on Ingredients
- Section. 3. Hazards Identification
- Section. 4. First Aid Measures
- Section. 5. Fire Fighting Measures
- Section. 6. Accidental Release Measures
- Section. 7. Handling and Storage
- Section. 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
- Section. 9. Physical and Chemical Properties
- Section. 10. Stability and Reactivity
- Section. 11. Toxicological Information
- Section. 12. Ecological Information
- Section. 13. Disposal Considerations
- Section. 14. Transport Information
- Section. 15. Regulatory Information
- Section. 16. Other Information

The information provided by MSDSs should not only be reviewed by the science teacher prior to use of the hazardous chemicals, but also shared with students in the laboratory.

FINAL THOUGHTS!

In summary, science teachers as employees have protection under OSHA's HazCom Standard. Part of that program required direct access to MSDSs. It can be in a notebook, computer program or accessed from an Internet site. Below under Resources is a useful list of MSDS sites on the Internet.

It is advisable for teachers to have the printed format for immediate access in the lab, should a safety incident occur. Check out the sites if you need an MSDS and download it ahead of time. As they say, better safe than sorry!!! Live Long & Prosper Safely!

Resources:

- Occupation Safety & Health Administration: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>
- Where to find MSDS on the Internet <http://www.ilpi.com/msds/>
- National MSDS Repository <http://www.msdssearch.com/>
- University of Akron <http://ull.chemistry.uakron.edu/erd/>
- VWR <http://www.vwrsp.com/search/index.cgi?tmpl=msds>
- International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCS) <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/icstart.html>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE -Richard Therrien

Following are some of the bills and initiatives proposed to the CT State Legislature that may have some impact on science education. Not all bills have had a vote, and interested parties should continue to check the website at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/eddata/cbr/ED.htm> for the current status of each bill.

Reported out of committee as of May 7, 2009

sHB-6565 AAC A Policy Regarding Dissection (Note that this bill was amended several times in committee and on the House floor, due to input from CABE, CSDE and others) Current text of bill awaiting passage by the Senate "No local or regional school district shall require students raising a conscientious objection to participate in the dissection of any animal as part of classroom instruction"

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=6565&which_year=2009

-SHB-6488 AAC High School Reform

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=6488&which_year=2009

sSB-1017 AAC A Middle College System

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=1017&which_year=2009

sS.B. No. 939 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION. To revise the certification and professional development requirements for educators.

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=939&which_year=2009

-R.S.B. No. 6571 AN ACT CONCERNING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS ISSUES IN CONNECTICUT.

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=6571&which_year=2009

-sHB-6686 AAC The Teacher Education and Mentoring Program

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=6686&which_year=2009

CALL FOR PRESENTERS



Connecticut Science Educators' Professional Development Day has made some changes! This year, the combined CSSA/CSTA conference will be held at Hamden Middle School on October 17, 2009. We are adding an administrator or leadership strand, and a technology strand to our usual kinds of presentations, and are hoping that some of you will be willing to share your expertise and enthusiasm about science education with your peers. Workshops are one-hour presentations, and we will be providing CEU's to both teachers and administrators. We also are working closely with Linda Froschauer to implement Elementary Science Day as an integral part of our Conference. Up to two Presenters per workshop will receive free registration, and will only have to pay \$15.00 for the cost of lunch. Please complete the application on the CSTA website at csta-us.org by May 29, 2009. This will give us time to review and confirm your application before the school year ends. Be sure to include your e-mail address for this purpose.

Some helpful hints when filling out your application;

Make the title of your workshop reflect how interesting and exciting it will be.

Limit your synopsis to **NO MORE THAN 50** words so we do not have to leave things out.

Be very specific when listing the session audience you wish to target.

Be sure to check off all A/V and other equipment you will need.

Make sure to supply enough copies of handouts (if applicable) A creative way to handle this is to take e-mail addresses so you can send electronic copies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Eloise Farmer at Eloise@cssaonline.net

NSTA Position Statement Parent Involvement in Science Learning Introduction

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) believes the involvement of parents and other caregivers in their children's learning is crucial to their children's interest in and ability to learn science. Research shows that when parents play an active role, their children achieve greater success as learners, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' own level of education. Furthermore, the more intensely parents are involved, the more confident and engaged their children are as learners and the more beneficial the effects on their achievement.

To continue the statement and view its many suggestions and ideas for involving parents in science go to:

http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/PositionStatement_ParentInvolvement.pdf

CSTA/CSSA SCIENCE EDUCATORS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Awardees who received their awards at the Annual CSSA/CSTA Awards Dinner held Wednesday, April 29th. They were honored with a reception and tour at the Peabody Museum and a dinner at the New Haven Lawn Club.

CSTA Excellence in Middle School Science:

Matthew Erickson, Edgewood School, New Haven

CSTA Excellence in Secondary Science:

Chris Willems, Wilbur Cross High, New Haven

CSTA Excellence in Elementary Science:

Jessica Kane, Saxe Middle School, New Canaan

CT Science Education Fellow:

Steve Weinberg, CSDE Science Consultant-Emeritus

CSSA Outstanding Science Supervisor 2009 (Fred Scimone Award):

Julia Sherman, Science Chair, E.O Smith High, Storrs

Dr. Sigmund Abeles Science Advocate Award, CSTA/CSSA:

Dr. Mel Goldstein, Chief Meteorologist, WTNH Channel 8

Thank you to the Awards Committee and members from both CSTA/CSSA who made this year's banquet and awards such a success.

Refer to www.cssaonline.net/awards.htm for information about awards and nominations.

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

The CSC is distributed electronically biweekly to CT Points of Contacts and Key Leaders through the NSTA Building A Presence Program. The latest edition has 11 pages of professional development and science teaching information. Check it out at <http://www.cssaonline.net/CSC/CSCMay52009.pdf>

Melinda Meyer
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