

October 2016

Volume 1, Issue 2

THE POST

Professional Online Supports for Teaching

In this issue:

- Meet new division staff
- Read about Outdoor Classroom Day
- Write for ASCD's Educational Leadership

Dear Colleagues:

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chief Academic Officer for the Department of Education over the last two years. As I move into my role as Acting Commissioner, I remain committed to supporting your professional growth and to relentlessly advocating for you and your students. I wish you all the best this year and hope that the POST will provide you with helpful timesavers, tips, and tools you need to keep your creativity flowing.

I want to introduce you to Dr. Laura C. Morana, the new Acting Chief Academic Officer. Laura is a lifetime educator as well and a tremendous instructional leader. I know she will continue to support you as you journey through the school year.

In closing, thank you for all you do, the many hours you put into your work and for bringing the joy of learning to your students.

With gratitude,
Kimberley Harrington
Acting Commissioner

Division News

New Faces in the Division

Dr. Laura C. Morana is the Department's newly appointed Acting Chief Academic Officer. Most recently, she served as the Interim Executive County Superintendent in Middlesex and Mercer counties, where she worked directly with districts and Department initiatives. She has also served as a classroom teacher, learning disabilities specialist, and school and central office administrator .

Joshua Koen has joined the Department as Chief Innovation Officer. Joshua brings with him several years of district-level experience. Most recently, he served as the Executive Director for Data, Assessment and Educational Technology for the Newark Public Schools. He also has experience in New Jersey's higher education community through his previous position as Manager of Professional Development at Stevens Institute of Technology.

NJ Collaborative Online Resource Exchange Needs You!

Have you visited [NJCORE](#)? Upload your favorite lessons and resources to share online with colleagues statewide. Be sure to visit the [Professional Learning](#) toolbox, which includes a link to the [Blended Online Learning Modules](#), as well as the [Featured Content](#) toolbox for new entries to the resource repository.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| English Language Arts | 2 |
| Social Studies | 2 |
| Science | 2 |
| Mathematics | 3 |
| Visual and Performing Arts | 3 |
| Technology | 3 |
| Assessment | 3 |
| Professional Learning | 4 |
| Further Reading | 4 |
| Other Opportunities | 5 |

English Language Arts

ReadWriteThink Calendar of Literary Events

The ReadWriteThink literacy website offers a [calendar of literary events](#) throughout history, appropriate for lessons at various grade levels. Each event description includes related classroom activities, web links and other resources to explore.



Storycasting with Reading Comprehension Strategies

This [article](#) describes a curriculum specialist's use of 'storycasting' to assess student command of reading strategies. Storycasting calls upon students to employ explicit reading comprehension strategies while assessing their ability to apply skills, monitor comprehension, and dive deeper into content. Access this storycasting sharing [handout](#) and [rubrics](#) to evaluate student learning.

Employing the *Serial* Podcast as Primary Text

This teacher [describes](#) his use of the National Public Radio podcast of *Serial* as a primary text and means to integrate "reporting process and effective storytelling" skills into his journalism class lessons. In particular, he favors the "content-rich nonfiction piece of narrative digital media" that ELA standards incorporate. The lessons allow students to do a close reading and examine central ideas.



Social Studies

Newsela Offers 'Students Vote 2016'

[Newsela](#) is a website that offers access to current news articles at various reading levels. It also provides online resources to help students understand 2016 election issues, while strengthening English language arts skills. Visit "[Students Vote 2016](#)" to view the material and resources. Students can participate in an online vote running from October 17 through November 1.

Education Week Invites Student Opinions

The National Writing Project (NWP) and KQED public broadcasting media invite other media and education organizations to partner in hosting the "[Letters to the Next President 2.0](#)" project for student engagement in the 2016 election. For more information on the initiative, visit the [NWP webpage](#). Teachers can also create accounts and invite students to submit letters in written or multimedia formats.

Science

NGSS Newsletter for September 2016

Read the articles and latest news for educators in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) [September newsletter](#). The newsletter addresses using phenomena in science lessons, and it announces that the updated 3.0 version of the EQuIP Rubric has been revised with "a scoring guide for rating the degree to which high quality science lessons and units are designed for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)."



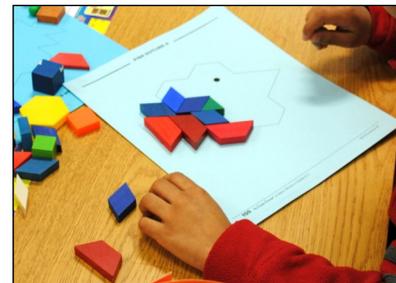
Increasing Student Engagement in Science Discussions

The [Inquiry Project](#) provides information on nine goals for productive discussions and examples of "talk moves" strategies to improve student participation in classroom scientific discourse. The [Teaching Channel](#) also provides several videos illustrating "talk moves" to promote collaborative discussions in various content areas and grade levels.

Mathematics

Math Forum by NCTM

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) provides a [Math Forum](#) with free tools and resources for teachers and their students. Find opportunities to share, interact with colleagues online and collect resources for teaching mathematics and financial education.



AMS Website for High School Students

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) hosts a [webpage](#) specifically for high school students and undergraduates. Educators and students can view information about contests, math challenges and special-interest stories involving math. Currently, students are invited to enter [Prediction 2016](#) for the presidential election. The deadline for submissions is October 24.



Visual and Performing Arts

Culinary Arts Can Strengthen Other Arts

In this [article](#), two humanities teachers relay their experiences in using culinary arts integration to “develop lessons that authentically incorporate the arts.” They are able to combine project-based and personalized

learning to increase student engagement and content retention. Some examples of culinary arts integration include having students involved in food photography or exploring foods relevant to characters in a period play. The teachers suggest “student effort and research connects subject area knowledge to an art form, deepening the knowledge of both.”

“They are able to combine project-based and personalized learning to increase student engagement and content retention.”

Technology

Toshiba and NSTA Present 2016 ExploraVision

[ExploraVision](#) is a science competition where K-12 students engage in real-world problem solving with emphasis on STEM. Working in teams, students use collaborative brainstorming and research to submit a project that envisions future technology. The event is sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). Download a [brochure](#) to read more about the event. The deadline to submit projects is February 6, 2017.



Assessment

New Jersey State Assessments

Visit the Department’s [Assessment](#) webpage to see the latest information on PARCC and other statewide assessments. Resources are available for educators, including the PARCC website, Understand the Score and other instructional tools. View [comparisons](#) of the Spring 2015 and 2016 PARCC administrations showing student score levels in ELA and Mathematics.

Professional Learning Opportunities



NJDOE Calendar of Events

Check the Department's [Calendar of Events](#) regularly to find free professional learning opportunities related to all content areas and grade levels. Programs are held at locations throughout the state.

Conversations Around Curriculum and Instruction – October 18, 20 and 21

[Register for sessions on the Curricular Framework](#) in ELA and Mathematics offered in the northern, central and southern locations of the state. Each half-day session will focus on using the newly designed Curricular Framework to support the collaborative conversations around curriculum and instruction.

Free National Archives Webinar on Media Literacy October 12

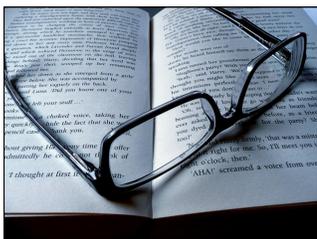
This one-hour [webinar](#) for K-12 educators and media specialists will focus on utilizing primary sources for exploring past presidential elections. Christopher Zarr, National Archives educational specialist, will discuss strategies using photos, posters, political buttons and newspaper headlines to support critical thinking and historical analysis skills.

Free Ed Tech Webinars on October 13 and November 3

The Office of Educational Technology will offer two webinars designed to assist districts in implementing [Standard 8-Technology](#). The webinar recordings will be available on the [NJ Digital Learning Portal](#). The October 13 session is an overview of the Standard 8.0 Assessment Toolkit, and the November 3 session provides guidance on utilizing toolkit resources.

Free Online Understanding Language Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS)

The Stanford Graduate School of Education is offering [Language Rich Assessment MOOCS](#), a set of free massive open online courses (MOOCS) to assist educators in using "instructionally-focused formative assessment and |curriculum-embedded performance assessments for deeper learning." The focus is on instructional improvement and student achievement in academic standards and English Language Proficiency standards.



Further Reading

What Works Clearinghouse Video Tour

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) reviews existing research on different programs, products, practices and policies in education to "provide educators with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions." This [video](#) provides a tour of their redesigned site, and assists visitors in using website features to obtain information on how to utilize resources.

National PTA and Scholastic Develop Parent-Support Resources

The Learning Heroes website introduces [The Super 5](#), an interactive checklist to help parents better understand what their children are learning and how to support them. The checklist, a collaboration by The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Scholastic, includes links to [learning tools](#) and other parent resources.



Other Opportunities

Write for ASCD's *Educational Leadership*

The theme for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's (ASCD) April 2017 issue of *Educational Leadership* (EL) will be "Differences, Not Disabilities." Editors are seeking manuscripts from educators which share how they have "embraced learning differences and the effect it has had on student achievement and school climate."

For more information, visit the ASCD [EL website](#). The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2016.

Before you go...



How can we help? [Contact us!](#)



Know someone who is interested in receiving the POST? Send them to The POST [subscription](#) page!



Did you know NJDOE is on [Facebook](#)? Visit us!

See you in November!

