

Notes from the NCES Media Center

With just a few days before December, our view from NCES shows a patchy green lawn; mountains have lost their color yet they aren't yet white. Still, winter weather will soon arrive. And with it comes the opportunity to teach weather, seasons, physics, sports, and holidays. If you need videos or models to help illustrate these subjects – and more - the NCES Media Center can provide them.

This is an abbreviated list of weather-related materials available to borrow:

The Weather Model Kit (15-6-110) – this clear model from Hubbard Scientific is used in showing the movement of air. Study humidity, temperature, pressure, precipitation, weather fronts, clouds.

In the Snow (15-6-231) (book, grades 3-6) Describes the mechanics of skiing, sledding, & skating, while presenting basic information about physics concepts of friction, gravity, and energy.

Up Close & Natural – Mammals, Winter, Pond (KN-069C) Video, K-5, 45 min. Sharpen skills of observation, description, and classification of Mammals. Depicts winter at Squam Lake, life in the winter forest.

Where Do Animals Go In Winter? (VCH-1842) Video, K-3, 17 min. Reveals how the habits of forest creatures change to adjust to cold and scarcity of food. See squirrels, bees, bears, snakes, deer, mice, fish, birds, elks, turkeys, bison.

Seasons in the Mountains (VCH-2557) Video, 20 minutes.

Snowplows at Work (VCF-2674) Video, 26 minutes.

Rain & Snow: Weather Fundamentals (VCG-2407) Video, grades 4-7, 23 min. Depicts the workings of the water molecule and water cycle and shows how all forms of precipitation form.

Some fun and seasonal books, audio books, videotapes and DVDs:

The Polar Express Book (20-3-020) The Caldecott Medal winning book by Chris Van Allsburg

Arthur's Christmas Cooks (20-3-041K) Book with cassette.

A Christmas Carol (VCT-3116) Video, 94 min., 1994. Patrick Stewart stars as Scrooge.

The Nutcracker (VCS-3051) Video, 93 min. Macaulay Culkin portrays the Nutcracker Prince in this 1993 version. Starring the New York City Ballet.

Oliver Twist (VCT-1521) Video, 333 min., 1988. Dickens' beloved tale of an orphan boy forced into a life of crime.

The Polar Express (VCU-0678) Video, 11 min. Narrated by Mandy Patinkin, the illustrations from Chris Van Allsburg's book are enhanced with music and sound effects.

The Polar Express (VCU-0678) DVD. The 2005 Warner Bros. adaptation of the classic story, starring the voice of Tom Hanks.

The Red Balloon (VCU-0842) Video, 34 min., 1980. Without any narration, this classic story of a boy and an exceptional balloon is told. A useful tool for many applications.

The Snowman (VCU-1073) Video, 26 min., 1978. A young boy dreams of a snowman coming to life. No narration.

The Night Before Christmas (VCU-1303). Video, 40 min., 1989. Animated.

Madeline's Christmas (VCU-1612) Video, 26 min., 1990. Animated and full of songs, Madeline and the little girls are sneezy, but they learn about the true spirit of Christmas.

Or, listen to selections in class or on a road trip:

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (ABU-031) by J.K. Rowling (1999). 8 hours and 17 minutes on 7 CDs.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (ABU-032) by J.K. Rowling (1999). 9 hours and 18 minutes on 8 CDs.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (ABU-033) by J.K. Rowling (1999). 11 hours and 51 minutes on 10 CDs.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (ABU-034) by J.K. Rowling (2000). 20 hours on 17 CDs.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (ABU-035) by J.K. Rowling (2003). 27 hours on 23 CDs.

Redwall (ABU-026) by Brian Jacques (1997). Matthias the mouse seeks his true destiny in a journey that will lead through danger and despair to true wisdom. 10 hours and 43 minutes on 8 cassettes.

Wind in the Willows (ABU-012) by Kenneth Grahame (1996). The hospitable Rat invites the heretofore lonely Mole to the river, with a charming assortment of genial characters whose sense of community supports their individual differences. 45 minutes on cassette.

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Courses start 2/7/07, register at www.nheon.org/opennh



NEWS

November/December 2006

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Director's Notes

I hope that each and every one of you enjoyed the Thanksgiving respite, although with all of the planning and preparation required, perhaps respite is not the most appropriate term to use! The experiences you gained should bode well for you during December's fast approaching festive, holiday seasons of Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, etc.

The New Year's Day celebrations, replete with our personal resolutions for self-improvement, also add to this joyous time of year, and we hope that 2007 will be filled with both personal and professional fulfillment for all of you.

NCES has been working with local school administrators and Plymouth State University to provide North Country professional growth opportunities in Educational Administration for aspiring school administrators through an M. Ed. program; and higher level learning opportunities for experienced administrators through a C.A.G.S. program by having PSU faculty travel here to deliver instruction beginning this spring. The actual site for this instruction has not yet been determined. An informational session is being held on January 4, 2007 from 4:00 to 6:00 at the Littleton Learning Center. Contact Becky Ring at becky@ncedservices.org or 466-5437 if you plan to attend.

Initial interest has been extremely high and would support both aforementioned programs. In January, 2007, an informational meeting will be scheduled with all interested parties to provide more specific information about each program. This is a win-win situation for both PSU and North Country personnel, and will hopefully, lead to a continuing professional development program that may expand into other areas of specialization.

NCES is also working with Granite State College to determine the need for a certificate training program in Speech-Language Disorders for experienced paraprofessionals currently employed within our school districts. If a sufficient demand for Speech-Language Assistants is identified, instruction could ensue in September, 2007. NCES is also exploring the need of school districts to provide COTA, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, training through Granite State College in a similar manner. Interested parties should contact me at NCES to discuss their interest and needs.

During this Holiday season, we at NCES hope that you will "Be well; Do good works; and Stay in touch."

Charles Thibodeau, Interim Executive Director
charlie@ncedservices.org

Attention Bibliophiles



The NCES Media Center has received funding to augment its collection of text and media materials. The input of school library-media specialists in the selection of appropriate materials for the NCES site is vital to our desire to address the needs for materials schools prefer to borrow rather than procure for their own collection.

Please contact Vicky McGillicuddy in the NCES Media Center with specific requests and recommendations for consideration. She may be reached at 800-268-5437 ext. 102 or via email at library@ncedservices.org. Thank you for your continued assistance and support of NCES services.

Professional Development for ICT Literacy Standards



Hillside School staff have been participating in Technology Tuesdays. These short after school sessions review computer skills while providing teachers with curriculum ideas for technology integration in the context of ICT Literacy Standards. Contact the NCES Professional Development Center for more information about onsite professional development.

Learn about the NCES PD Center process for ICT Literacy Standards implementation at www.ncedservices.org/portfolio

General information on the NCES PD Center Portfolio Process



ICT Standards and Continuum of Skills by Grade Level



NCES Web Tools to Support Identifying, Creating, and Cataloging Activities



Sample Portfolio



Visit www.ncedservices.org/portfolio to view these four short video clips.

Science Tools for Learning

For: Teachers grades 4 to 12

Presenter: Kathleen McClaskey

Date: May 11, 2007 from 9:00 to 3:00 at NCES PD Center

Cost: \$20 per person, includes lunch. Call NCES to register.

Learn how to use technology tools that can empower your standards-based science instruction and engage all learners in your inquiry-based lessons. Activities will include an introduction to InspireData®, a new tool designed to improve data literacy skills by having students visualize, investigate and understand data. This workshop will also include how to use and leverage accessible desktop tools and web resources to support your science curriculum and to provide access to the curriculum by all learners in your classroom. Teams of teachers are encouraged to attend. Attendees will receive a CD with grade level science links, resources and activities presented in the workshop and a 30-day trial CD of InspireData®.

Technology Tip

Set up the toolbars in Word



All programs come with a standard set of toolbars and the option to set up other toolbars as needed. Too many toolbars are confusing and take up valuable real estate on your screen. To set up toolbars on the Menu Bar choose View > Toolbars and the list of available toolbars is displayed. There are some very handy toolbars that can be configured in Word:

The drawing toolbar: This toolbar displays at the bottom of your screen and allows you easy access to lines, arrows, shapes and callouts. Not sure how they work? Then open a blank document and play.

The picture toolbar (shown above): Have a hard time getting images to go where you want in Word (don't worry most of us do!)? The picture toolbar, when checked in the View > Toolbars, pops up when an image is selected. There are options on how to fit the image within the text (wrapping): it's the dog with lines icon. To compress the picture use the square with arrows pointing to the corners. You can adjust brightness and contrast, turn your color image into a soft grayscale image, crop and border your images as well.

Your Word program also tries to anticipate what you might need and sometimes doesn't get it quite right. If there are unused toolbars, just go to the Menu Bar and choose View > Toolbars and uncheck what you don't need... some toolbars you may want to remove are the mail merge toolbar and the

Nonfiction in Focus: Reading and Writing Nonfiction Literature

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary Bamford

NEW Dates: January 24, February 8, March 8, March 21, April 4 and April 18, 2007

Time: 8:30 to 3:00 at NCES

Cost (includes two textbooks and meals): Members \$750, Associates \$775, Non-Members \$800

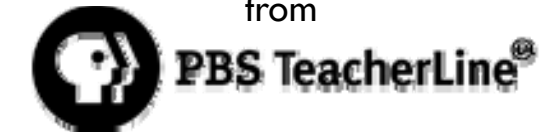
Graduate credit: 3 credits available through Plymouth State University for an additional \$400 (payable to PSU)

Description: Available at www.ncedservices.org/profdev.htm



This winter, enjoy your PD and the comforts of home with **Online Courses**

from



Courses start 1/24/07, register at
www.nhptv.org/teacherline

Classroom Resources

I am the largest animal in North America, what am I? Find the answer to this question and explore over 290 NH animals profiled on this wild website: www.nhptv.org/wild



We are looking for educators to pilot the use of our newest website, **Outlook on Money**. Designed to enhance financial literacy in grades 5-12, this site is a great resource. All materials are aligned to NH curriculum frameworks. Sign up today!

www.nhptv.org/kn/outlookonmoney