



In this issue...

- Scholastic Scrimmage...p. 2
- Digital Media for the Classroom...p. 2
- Online Professional Development...p. 2
- Raising Readers...p. 3
- Reading Rainbow...p. 3
- Reading is Fundamental...p. 4
- Tech Talk...p. 4
- Broadcasts...p. 5
- Web Links...p. 5

Chart a new course...

Introducing our "PBS 39 Education Matters" eNewsletter

Dear Educators:

Thank you for your suggestions for the PBS 39 Education Matters newsletter. We are grateful for your enthusiastic response. One of the clear messages you sent was that you would like to know more about what is currently available through PBS and how you can access the many local and national PBS teacher services and programs. For that reason, this issue is dedicated to highlighting some of the key programs and services available to you. Based on popular opinion, budget and an interest in saving the trees, we have moved to an electronic newsletter rather than print.

We enjoy hearing from you and hope that you will continue to share information as we work to celebrate teaching and learning in our communities and schools.

Kind regards,

Valerie

Valerie C. Holt
 Director of Education and Outreach
education@wlvt.org



PBS 39 in our community

- Over 2.6 million households served daily!
- Non-commercial public television programs provided free of charge to every citizen.
- Educational classroom services, including a web-based archive of thousands of educational videos that impact 150,000 students each day.
- Professional development provided for 11,000 teachers annually.
- Over 3,000 hours of children's programming aired every year.
- Early childhood education for thousands of preschoolers.
- 24/7 digital education channel @ the Digital Learning Center online.
- 4,800 books donated last year alone.
- Producers of Emmy award-winning local documentary and public affairs program.
- Over 500 hours of arts and cultural programming broadcast annually.
- Addressing literacy through workshops for parents and children, free of charge.

Celebrating the 35th year of Scholastic Scrimmage

This year marks the 35th season of Scholastic Scrimmage continuing a long tradition of PBS 39 bringing some of the area's brightest high school students into your home to compete for the honor of becoming Scholastic Scrimmage champions. Catch it Saturday mornings at 9:30am!

For the complete season update, visit: www.wlvt.org/education/scholastic-scrimmage/ScholScrimMain.htm

Where are they now?...

If you know of a former scholastic scrimmage champion and would like to suggest him or her for an alumni spotlight, please forward the winner's name and contact information to education@wlvt.org. As part of this season's celebration we will re-introduce you to some of the scholastic champions.



PBS 39 Helps Local Teachers Explore... Discovery Education Streaming

In addition to national teacher content available at pbsteachers.org, PBS 39 member districts gain access to a variety of other digital media resources.

In partnership with Intermediate Units 20 and 21, PBS 39 provides teachers with access to Discovery Education streaming. We're pleased to share with you that by December 2008, Discovery will have expanded its digital library to more than 5,000 videos, an increase of 25 percent allowing educators to have access to more than 50,000 video clips covering all K-12 subject areas.



It's all waiting for you to discover at streaming.discoveryeducation.com.

Online Courses for Pennsylvania Educators

Do you need Act 48 credits but have no time to attend a traditional class? PennTeacher is offering courses online. The session runs from **March 4 to April 21, 2009**. PennTeacher is part of the PA eLearning for Educators program. This initiative is part of a collaborative effort between the PA Department of Education and PBS-39. Funding by a U.S. Department of Education "Ready to Teach" grant allows us to offer these courses at the rate of \$50 per course.

We are offering the following eight courses for thirty Act 48 credit hours:

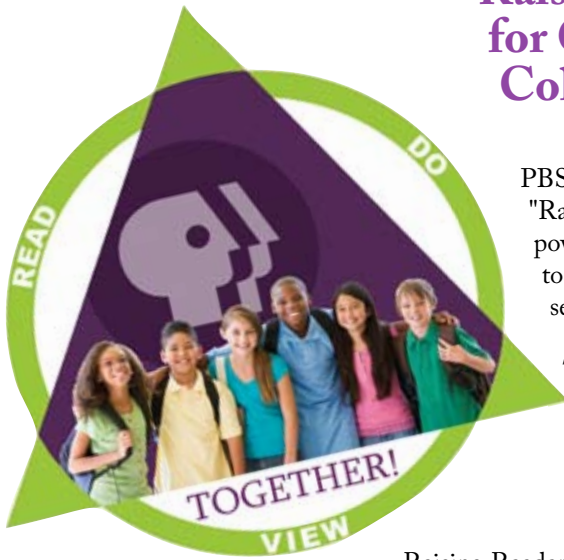
Leading Schools in a Web 2.0 World
Integrating Literacy and the Life Sciences
Science 2.0: Using Web Tools to Promote Inquiry-Based Science
Data-Driven Decision Making: Using Objective Measures to Improve Student Learning
Using Technology in the Elementary Math Classroom
Transforming the Classroom with Project-Based Learning
Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas
Internet Safety in Schools

For more details and to register, please visit the PennTeacher web site at www.pennteacher.org/teacherpages/courses.html. You may also contact the eLearning for Educators project director at director@pennteacher.org with any questions you may have about the program.

PennTeacher...learn @ your schedule!



Raising Readers Literacy Enrichment Program for Children and Caregivers offered in Collaboration with Area Schools



PBS 39 is excited to offer an updated and improved literacy workshop series entitled "Raising Readers." Much like View, Do, Read Together, Raising Readers uses the power of public educational media to help parents and caregivers teach reading skills to children ages four-to-eight. The program is offered primarily in our urban school settings.

The literacy framework used in Raising Readers is based on the recommendations of the National Reading Panel of 2000, which outlines building blocks for teaching young children to read and the key skills children need to master reading from preschool through third grade.

Raising Readers' multi-platform content and materials are based on existing PBS KIDS series Between the Lions, Sesame Street, Super Why!, WordWORLD, and Martha Speaks. Engaging, online activities and companion tools for Raising Readers are available at www.pbskids.org/read. To schedule a Raising Readers workshop series for your school, please email us at education@wlv.org.

The 15th Annual National Reading Rainbow contest is now open! The contest runs until **March 20, 2009**. The Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest gives young people the opportunity to write and illustrate their own stories.

Who can enter? Anyone in Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade or 3rd grade. **Every child is a winner!** Every entrant receives a Certificate of Achievement! There will be Twelve National Winners, plus three national winners for each grade level. Here are the prizes:

- Grand Prize – Flat Panel TV with DVD player
- Second Place – Digital Camera
- Third Place – MP3 Player



Each of the twelve winners also receives Reading Rainbow library sets of 5 DVDs and books for their home, school, and library. All twelve stories will be featured on the PBS Kids Reading Rainbow site at pbskids.org/readingrainbow. There will also be great prizes for local entrants at the Reading Rainbow 2009 Celebration! Find out the contest rules and more at www.wlv.org/education/rr2009.htm.

Share Your Story with the World!



Book Distribution Program is ready to start in the Allentown School District

The “Reading is Fundamental” book distribution program offers enriching activities that spark children's interest in reading. Every child involved with RIF gets to choose and keep new books, at no cost to the children or their families.

Although RIF programs are run in a variety of communities, some of RIF's most important work occurs in communities where students are at great risk of educational failure. Wherever kids are served—at schools, libraries, childcare centers, Head Start programs, parks, community centers, health clinics, migrant camps, or domestic shelters—RIF can make a difference.

Visit the Reading is Fundamental web site at www.rif.org.



Tech Talk ...

Over the next several issues of PBS 39 Education Matters, we will be highlighting creative and innovative ways to use technology to enhance your teaching and promote student achievement. We thought it would be helpful to share a few basic definitions to get started.

Blog

Main Entry: Blog

Part of Speech: n

Definition: an online diary; a personal chronological log of thoughts published on a Web page; also called Weblog, Web log

Example: Typically updated daily, blogs often reflect the personality of the author.

Etymology: shortened form of Weblog

Usage: blog, blogged, blogging v, blogger n

Wiki

Main Entry: wiki

Part of Speech: n

Definition: a collaborative Web site set up to allow user editing and adding of content

Etymology: 1995; < Hawaiian wiki wiki quick

Usage: sometimes cap.

For a fun YouTube definition and demonstration of a wiki, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY

Social Networking

Main Entry: social networking

Part of Speech: n

Definition: the use of a website to connect with people who share personal or professional interests, place of origin, education at a particular school, etc.

Example: Classmates and MySpace are premier sites for social networking.

Usage: Computing

Webster's New Millennium™ Dictionary of English, Preview Edition (v 0.9.7) Copyright © 2003-2008
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**Want to know what kids are texting?
Go to [www.pbs.org/parents/
childrenandmedia/mediaglossary-
lexicon.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/mediaglossary-lexicon.html) to translate common
phrases!**

Broadcasts

PBS offers shows of particular interest to teachers. Some links also have online Teacher Guides. Check your local listings!

The American President
www.pbs.org/newshour/extra

At Close Range with National Geographic
www.pbs.org/atcloserange

Battlefield: Vietnam
www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam

Ben Franklin
www.pbs.org/benfranklin

The Civil War
www.pbs.org/civilwar

Freedom: A History of US
www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus

Liberty! The American Revolution
www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty

Nature
www.pbs.org/wnet/nature

NOVA
www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova

NOVA Science NOW
www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow

The War
www.pbs.org/thewar

What's Up with the Weather?
www.pbs.org/wgbh/warming

Web Links

PBS Kids
pbskids.org
Preschoolers can play with all their favorite characters

PBS Kids GO!
pbskids.org/go
Our place for big kids

PBS Parents
www.pbs.org/parents
Activities and parenting advice

Media Infusion
www.pbs.org/teachers/mediainfusion
Ideas for bringing media and technology into the classroom

PennTeacher
www.pennteacher.org
Online Professional Development for PA Educators

PBS Teachers learning.now
pbs.org/teachers/learningnow
Thought-provoking conversations on issues surrounding technology and teaching

PBS Teachers
www.pbs.org/teachers
Standards-based, media-rich lesson plans, activities, and projects

Teachers' Domain
www.teachersdomain.org
Digital media for the classroom and professional development

NewsHour for Students
www.pbs.org/newshour/extra
News for grades 7-12