



Curriculum News and Views

Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology
St. Croix District

U. S. Virgin Islands Department of Education

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September-October 2001

New Teachers Seminar Series

The Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology designed a series of six seminars specifically geared to new teachers in the St. Croix District. These seminars will take place at the Curriculum Center from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and are scheduled as follows:

Date Topic

9/11/01 Classroom Management

9/18/01 Effective Use of Curriculum Guides

9/18/01 Developing Dynamic Teaching Strategies

10/02/01 Writing Across The Curriculum

10/09/01 Utilizing Local Resources

10/16/01 Using Technology to Enhance Instruction

Curriculum and Program Coordinators will conduct all seminars and full participation is required. Certificates will be issued upon completion of the series.

Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of this professional development opportunity.

This Division remains committed to providing support as we strive to improve student achievement.

In addition, the Division will sponsor an array of workshop offerings. Please check the master schedule at your school.

Gloria E. Gawrych
Professional Development

Celebrating Hispanic & French Cultures!

The year is off to a good start with the well-attended meetings and workshop. Those in attendance had an opportunity to meet and share ideas. Please continue to participate.

Paving the Way for Future Generations was the theme for the observance of **Hispanic Heritage Month** 2001.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in the September 15 to October 15 celebrations.

At the Pearl B. Larsen School, Domitila Vargas guided the month-long observance. It was truly a community affair. This guest enjoyed sampling the delicious foods from various Spanish-speaking countries at the culminating activity. Spanish teacher Julio Felix made quite a hit with his hot Ginger Chocolate from the Dominican Republic.

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Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15th - Oct. 15th

Gearing Up For MATHCOUNTS 2002

Welcome to a challenging and exciting school year 2001-2002. It is the time of year to make the necessary preparations to get your students geared up for a competitive mathematics program for junior high school students.

MATHCOUNTS promotes mathematics achievement with all the challenge of a school sports event. Student "mathletes" train individually and in teams. Let us give our students the opportunity to compete locally; state and nationally. Since last school year, schools are encouraged to include sixth grade students in the competition. This program targets middle school students, who are at a critical age in sustaining and developing their mathematics interest and ability.

The deadline date to register your school in this worthwhile event is December 14, 2001. Let us get our students interested, begin this fall, and prepare the students to participate in the local MATHCOUNTS competition in February 2002. This year the St. Croix District will host the Territorial MATHCOUNTS in March 2002. Please mark your calendars.

Juanita Boneque
Mathematics Coordinator

Director's Corner

As the 2001-02 School Year opens, the Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology once again pledges its full support to all educators as we strive to improve teaching and learning.

Let me take this opportunity to share with the educational community two initiatives that our Division will implement. Professional development opportunities for various staff members in the Department of Education are available through a variety of workshops conducted or facilitated by C.A.T. professional staff. These workshops will run from September through May 2002. In addition, the Distance Learning Initiative that was started last year will be continued. The Division is providing access to educational programming on the Government Access Channel (Cable TV Channel 5.)

This is a reminder that the proposal deadline for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant is November 2nd. Our staff remains ready to provide technical assistance to any school team engaged in the writing and submission process.

We look forward to another productive school year.

Lauren Larsen, Ph.D.



American Education Week

November 11th through the 17th marks the 80th Anniversary of the celebration of American Education Week. This week celebrates relationships between parents, teachers, community and business organizations to improve education through collaborative involvement. This year's theme is "Together: Making Public Schools Great for Every Child."

In celebration of making our schools great for each child, this district is hosting a drawing contest for students in primary grades (kindergarten – third).

Schools should select one (1) entry from each grade level. To be entered into the district competition, entries should be ready for pick up from your school by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 2, 2001. Entries will be judged by a panel of local artists on Wednesday, November 7, 2001. Gift presentation to students from each grade level will be held at the Villa La Reine McDonalds on Friday, November 9, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. Join in celebrating education.

Beatrice Tyler
Early Childhood Coordinator

Please Go Online

Please do visit the following sites:

www.ala.org/spectrum/index.htm provides details about the Spectrum Initiative. The project is designed to recruit and award scholarships to selected students in graduate programs related to library and information studies.

www.brainpop.com offers an array of activity sheets and video selections related to health, science and technology.

www.ed.gov gives general information about USDE programs.

For more educational resources visit the Turner Learning website at <http://turnerlearning.com>

Gloria E. Gawrych
Professional Development

Gardine Opens Second Read 180 Lab

Last school year, in an attempt to improve reading achievement at the Juanita F. Gardine Elementary School, a READ 180 Lab was established. The READ 180 classroom meets the needs of students who read below grade level through a research based program. This program combines the best reading instruction practices with the most effective use of technology in the classroom. The program has proved successful in districts throughout the country. Success is based on 90-minute class periods, daily instruction through the READ 180 software, daily modeled and independent reading practice and daily small group instruction.

Congratulations to Principal Carmen Mills and her administrative team, teachers, staff and committee for their perseverance and hard work in realizing this goal.

A special thanks to Virgin Islands Department of Education, Division of Curriculum, Assessment & Technology, Virgin Islands Port Authority, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, Pan American Distributor, Sterling Optical, Paint 'n' Things, Top Quality Auto Maintenance, The Joukovsky Foundation, The Gardine Family, Mr. & Mrs. David Salo, Ms Hilma Booth, Mr. & Mrs. Linden Doran and Mr. Craig Williams for investing in our children.

SPELLING BEE ALERT

Please be reminded that all In-School Spelling Bees should be completed by January 31, 2002.

The St. Croix District Spelling Bee is scheduled for February 22, 2002. The site will be announced at a later date. Currently, the Spelling Bee practice books have not arrived but please continue to identify and work with interested students.

Charlene Matthew
Language Arts Coordinator

FOREIGN LANGUAGE Cont'd.

The third annual commemoration of **National French Week** "La Semaine du Français", will take place **November 7-13**. This event, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), highlights the many contributions of the French and French-speaking world to: literature, art, music, dance, civilization, science, technology, fashion, cuisine, sports and games. A French connection can be found for every discipline. Research a French topic, explore an idea! Help make National French Week a community event.

Bonne Semaine du Français!

Anadia Andrews
Foreign Language Coordinator

Math & Science Summer Institute

The annual Summer Math & Science Teachers Institute was held at the St. Croix Educational Complex August 16 – 18, 2001. Teachers from both junior high and senior high schools in the area of mathematics and science participated in three intense days of interactive workshop sessions. Presenters from the University of the Virgin Islands, Regional Alliance (TERC) and the Division of Curriculum, Assessment & Technology shared some rich and vital hands-on activities that the teachers viewed as useful in their regular classroom instruction. A follow-up session for science teachers was conducted on October 11, 2001. Science teachers participated in a session led by Joyce Tugel, TERC science specialist on issues and concerns in science. Rosa White & Gloria Gawrych assisted with facilitating the session.

The math follow-up session will be scheduled later on in the school year. The Department of Education and the Regional Alliance Math & Science Reform (TERC) jointly sponsor this annual event for Math & Science Reform.

St. Croix SWAT