



Teacher Newsletter - September 8, 2022

Request for Updated Teacher Info

As we kick-off the school year - **Please complete the Teacher Information Form in Ideal-Logic**. To login to Ideal-Logic: [Click Here](#). You can access the form by selecting the “Member Home” tab on the left side of the screen or the “Action Required” red rectangle at the top of the screen. Contact us if you have any questions about this process.

Helpful Resource: For all lessons featured during the workshop, check out our Google Drive Folder: [Click Here](#)

Important Dates

- **Between October 3 and November 18:** Hold a Fall Family Math and Science Night. *Becca will be in contact to work out the details with you.*
- **Tuesday, December 13, from 5 to 6:30 PM (PT), 6 to 7:30 PM (MT) :** Virtual Family Math and Science Night.
- **Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28:** Winter Teacher Workshop at OSU.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12:** Middle School Challenge at Western Oregon University (WOU) and the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC).
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 18 and 19:** High School Challenge at WOU and HMSC.
- **Elementary Challenge Dates:** *Stay tuned for dates.*
- **Thursday through Saturday, May 11 - 13:** Spring Teacher Workshop at HJ Andrews Research Forest.

LaCuKnoS Corner – Neighborhood walking field trips as a tool to support science learning

Walking field trips in the neighborhood around your home or school have multiple benefits for science learning. Walking field trips can:

- Connect science, nature, art, and other STEM topics to students' lived experiences;
- Broaden students' thinking about who does science and what science can look like;
- Highlight resources and problems that exist close to where we live.



Also, walking field trips can be used repeatedly throughout the year to support observation and data collection focused on changes that take place over time.

To increase these positive outcomes for walking field trips, here are a few tips to consider:

- Select a location that highlights local natural resources, neighborhood problems or challenges, or connections to careers – these can all enhance student motivation for learning.
- Design the experience to build on the prior knowledge and values that students bring to the classroom (either from home or from prior learning in school).
- Engage parents/adults to help design the experience as a way to bridge home, community, and school.
- Identify and use the ways your students interact with the environment as a point of entry to science learning.
- Include a summary discussion with questions focused on what students observed or learned about natural or social phenomena.
- Look for ways to link student understandings gained from the walking field trip to the goals of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

If you want to learn more about this topic, we have copies of these and other resources:

- Allexaht-Snider, M. (2018). *Exploring Families' Roles in Science Learning: From El Bosque in Veracruz, México to the Southeastern U.S.* (L. Bryan & K. Tobin, Eds.; pp. 329–228). Peter Lang Inc.

- Bang, M., & Medin, D. (2010). Cultural processes in science education: Supporting the navigation of multiple epistemologies: Improving Science Learning for Indigenous Students. *Science Education*, 94(6), 1008–1026. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sce.20392>

- Ciechanowski, K., Bottoms, S., Fonseca, A. L., & Clair, T. S. (2015). Should Rey Mysterio Drink Gatorade? Cultural Competence in Afterschool STEM Programming. *After School Matters*, 9.

Club Catalyst

As you gear up for your SMILE club this year, you are welcome to choose your own lessons, to use those provided by SMILE, or any combination of the two. Below, is an example of SMILE and LaCuKnoS lessons you can use to cover your first six meetings, but you are not obligated to follow this schedule.

For the LaCuKnoS - My Family STEM Story/Career Lesson: [Click Here](#)
For the SMILE- Camera Trap Lesson: [Click Here](#)

These lessons are ready to go, so you can focus on member recruitment in the fall. In the Summer Teacher Workshop boxes, you'll find all the physical materials necessary to complete these activities. If logged in Ideal-Logic, they will count towards earning SMILE incentives.

Please contact us if you have any questions: SMILEprogram@oregonstate.edu

Sample SMILE Meeting Schedule to Begin the Year

Week 1: Information session with icebreakers and/or teambuilder activities. Provide students with applications.

Week 2: LaCuKnoS - My Family STEM Story

Week 3: LaCuKnoS - My Family STEM Story/ **SMILE** - Camera Trap Club Catalyst introduction

Week 4: LaCuKnoS - Take home booklets collected/ **SMILE** - Camera Trap Club Catalyst

Week 5: LaCuKnoS - Administer student surveys (first 15 min of club)/ **SMILE** - Camera Trap Club Catalyst

Week 6: LaCuKnoS - Collect student surveys/ **SMILE** - Camera Trap Club Catalyst

Administrative Resources

For a SMILE timeline, incentive schedule, member applications, and more, check out the "SMILE Blast-Off" folder in Google Drive: [Click Here](#)

Grant Opportunities for Educators

- *Do you teach in an elementary school classroom?*
- Do you have an innovative idea for improving Science, technology, engineering and math learning in your classroom?
- *Is your idea project based learning with measurable outcomes?*
- *What do you need to make learning math and science fun for your students?*

The Toshiba America Foundation invites grant applications from grade K-5 teachers for innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to teachers to support efforts to bring an innovative project to life within their classroom. Applications must be for project-based learning.

Deadline: October 1, each year.

Details at: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5.jsp>

TOSHIBA

The Herb Society of America invites applications for its Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grants. Through the program, the society will award up to 15 grants of \$300 each to elementary classrooms grades 3-6 with 15 students or more to establish an herb garden. The funds may be used for supplies such as soil, plant trays, containers, child- or youth-sized tools, etc.

Deadline: October 1, 2022.

For complete program guidelines and application instructions, visit:

<https://www.herbsociety.org/get-involved/grants-scholarships/>



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