

# LIFELINES

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WINTER 2004

## LIFERs Begin 2004 With Bubble Basics

Project LIFERs, along with Sherri Ferrel and Carolyn Smith, met on Saturday January 31, 2004, for the third workshop of the academic year. The day was filled with learning experiences that featured bubbles. They started off with a bubble

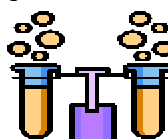


trivia game that got LIFERs moving around. Next they went through an investigation of dishwashing liquids. Participants experienced experimental design at its best and discovered that writing a research report was not difficult! LIFERs that were in attendance were:

**Debbie Bryan, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary School, Tifarah Dial, Swayze Elementary School, Louise Dykes, Cut Off Elementary School, Robyn Francois, Robinson Elementary**

**School, DeWanda Hambler, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary School, Susan Harris, Good Hope Middle School, Marla Hemperley, Dodson High School, Audrey Hudnall, Jack Hayes Elementary School, Susan Johnson, El Dorado High School, Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle School, Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School, Rosalind Mosley, J.B. Oak Terrace/J.B. Harville Alternative School, Cindy Pardue, Weston High School, Danzie Pierce, Robinson Elementary School, Mark Spradling, Ruston Junior High School, Mariam Stone, Ruston Junior High School, and Sharon Valentine,**

**Mangham Elementary**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Blackboard Bites	2
Good News	2
LIFE Supports	3
LIFE supports cont.	4
Extra Curricular	4
Teacher Resources	5-6
Bulletin Board	7

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## Professional Development to Continue in Summer 2004



CATALyST is pleased to announce the following projects for the summer of 2004. Concepts in Cellular Biology will be offered June 6-18, 2004. Chemistry Concepts and Connections (C<sub>3</sub>) will also be offered June 6-18 for new participants and June 21-July 2, 2004 for returning participants. All courses

will be offered on the Tech campus with stipends for each participant, graduate credit available and travel provided for those who qualify. For more information or to apply on-line, visit the CATALyST website

<http://catalyst.latech.edu>

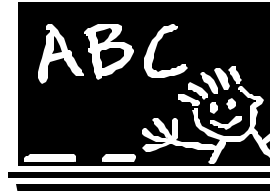


# BLACKBOARD BITES

Project LIFERs continue to hit the Blackboard with enthusiasm. The 3rd assignment had the teachers reading an article on Alternative Assessment and responding to questions. **Mariam Stone** feels that this type of assessment is one of the BEST, but will and does require a lot of work, time, and effort, from the teacher, the student, and the parent. **Debbie Bryan** stated that she tries to use alternative assessment in her science classroom. She has seen a positive change in her students that were typically a discipline problem or unmotivated. **Louise Dykes** believes that alternative methods of assessment can convey a much more accurate and in depth measurement of a student's growth and development. Using a variety of assessment tools such as portfolios, projects, presentations, and student self-

evaluation, teachers are better able to evaluate what a student knows and assess the progress taking place. Thanks for all the positive comments!!!

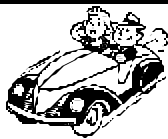
**Have you checked Blackboard lately???**



Some students drink at the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle!!!!



## SECOND SEMESTER CLASSROOM VISITS ARE UNDERWAY



Carolyn kicked off the second semester round of classroom visits on January 20 and things are going very well!!! Reminder notices have been sent to all participants and you are encouraged to place the reminder in a prominent place so that you will be ready for Carolyn when she arrives at your school. The schedule has been carefully constructed to get everyone's visit completed before the last meeting in March. Be sure if something does come up, to let Carolyn or the Project LIFE office know immediately. In addition, the school

office and/or administration should be alerted to the date of Carolyn's visit so that they can appropriately plan as well. And don't forget the areas that we hope to focus on during our second semester together—from our first semester data, we know there are certain strategies that we want to try and Carolyn will be looking to see if we can accomplish that....

**If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got!**

## Good News About Project LIFERs!!!!



**Robyn Francois, Robinson Elementary School**, is expecting a new baby in May. Congratulations Robyn!!! Wedding bells are around the corner for **Ti-farah Dial, Swayze Elementary School**. Our best wishes go out to you!!!! **Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle**



**School**, will be getting a new member in her family. Her son, Clint, is getting married on March 13, 2004. Congratulations Susan!!!! **Mark Spradling, Ruston Junior High School**, has recently been named the interim Youth Director for Cook Baptist Church. Way to go Mark!!!




## LIFE SUPPORTS (items from and about our LIFERs)



**Debbie Bryan, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary School**, reports that the study of rocks was much more interesting when the students experienced the various rocks in a carousel. Rock on Debbie!!! **Louise Dykes, Cut Off Elementary School**, is on the board of directors for Le' Reflections du Bayou, an environment/beautification organization. They have been awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. This grant will work in conjunction with the water testing that her class is doing now. Awesome!!! **Mariam Stone, Ruston Junior High School**, is raving about TrackStar. She has discovered this wonderful website that has user friendly web-quests for students!!! ,

**Danzie Pierce, Robinson Elementary School**, and his class have been spotted planting bulbs in the flower garden in front of the school. Great way to show school pride!!!! **Sue Harris, Good Hope Middle School**,



 will be celebrating "Pi Day" early. The state wide testing will be going on on the actual day (3.14), but this is not going to stop the celebration. Super way to get students interested in

math!!!! **Marla Hemperley, Dodson High School**, had her own C.S.I investigation going on in her class. Her students were looking for the culprit that wrote a sassy note. The students discovered lots of interesting things.... Super way to show real-world connections

in the classroom!!!! **Rosalind Mosley, Oak Terrace/J.B. Harville Alternative School**, and her students experienced C.S.I Oak Terrace. Her students observed crime scenes, participated in paper chromatography labs, fingerprint labs, and crime scene mapping to help solve a murder mystery. Awesome job Rosalind!!! **Cindy Pardue, Weston**



**High School**, has 25 additions to her classroom. Her students were able to use their math skills when the mama guppy started have her babies. When all was said and done, 25 new guppies were added to the 1st graders' list of pets.... Great way to integrate math and science!!!! **Robyn Francois'** students at **Robinson Elementary School**, had a "shaken good time" when they got to experiment with ice, rock salt and Hawaiian punch. The students experienced how much fun science can be and actually learned in the process.... Fantastic job!!!! **Susan Johnson, El Dorado High School**, had her students investigating osmosis using simple things such as eggs, vinegar, corn syrup and water. Science is wonderful when we can "do" things that help understanding to take place. Excellent way to present such an abstract concept!!! **Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle School**,



reports that her students know a lot more about apples now that they have gotten "up close and personal" with them. They were able to incorporate math along with science as they made graphs with the collected data on circumference and mass. Fantastic job!!!! **Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School**, can't

take the students to the ocean, so she brings the ocean (salt water) to them. They were investigating properties of salt water and fresh water. Students participated in a modified jigsaw and were able to learn some interesting facts about these two. Wonderful job!!!! **Audrey Hudnall, Jack Hayes Elementary School**, had her students using



card sorts to help with the understanding of matter. After an investigation of solids, liquids, and gases, the students put together the card sort that showed evidence of understanding. Great strategy!!!

## LIFE SUPPORTS (continued)



**Mark Spradling, Ruston Junior High School**, reports that his students presented some excellent shoe box biomes. Marvelous way to get students involved!!! **Sharon Valentine,**

**Mangham Elementary School**, had her students investigating pennies. They not only learned science with this investigation but also math, reading and history. Another fantastic job with 1st graders!!!



**Tifarah Dial, Swayze Elementary School**, has her students using card sorts to match pictures with words. Great way to help students recognize sight words!!! **DeWanda Hamler**, is excited to be teaching 5th grade math at **Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary School**.



## Extra Curricular



**Mariam Stone**, 4-H advisor at **Ruston Junior High School**, reports that her 4-H'ers spread Christmas joy with residents of Arbor and Alpine Nursing homes.

Her students have made bags for the residents' walkers and they will deliver them this month. Keep up the Fantastic work!!!



**Danzie Pierce, Robinson Elementary School**, can be spotted on the basketball court coaching a 5th & 6th grade basketball team. As of printing, his team was 8-0. Awesome!!!

**Cindy Pardue, Weston High School**, had the privilege of coaching Weston's boys cross country track team that came in 2nd place at the state meet. I know she was smiling!!!!



### LIFE Reminders:

**March 5:** Blackboard Assignments complete

**March 6:** Last workshop & Portfolio due



### “THE SECRET TO GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED”



Dr. Gary Phillips, President of the National School Improvement Project, found that retention of learning depends in large part on the means by which students sense information. The more engaged the learner, the more information he or she can remember and use later. The amount of time spent covering material is not as important to learning as how deeply a student becomes involved with the subject. American schools have certainly reached the point of diminishing returns for conventional lectures and tests. People will retain learned material at the following levels:

**10% of what we hear**

**15% of what we see**

**20% of what we see and hear**

**80% of what we experience actively**

**90% of what we teach others**

Implement active student learning.

Your students are depending on you to help them achieve success!

## EE SHORT COURSE



In conjunction with the Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium, there is a special pre-conference event planned for February 27, 2004. The three hour short course will be held at the LPB Studios, 773 Perkins Road in Baton Rouge, LA, and there are two opportunities to participate: the morning session from 9-12, or the afternoon meeting from 1-4. The need to develop citizens that can “think critically”, “problem solve”, and make “informed decisions” will be the focus of the short course and will use the NSTA model “Decisions Based on Science” along with the award winning Enviro-Tacklebox™ video and web program of the same title. It is being offered through a grant from the Louisiana Office of Environmental Education and in partnership with Building a Presence in Science. Up to 40 teachers and 20 pre-service teachers can attend, each receiving a small stipend along with other resources. Register by e-mailing Dot Dickinson at [ddickinson@lpb.org](mailto:ddickinson@lpb.org) or by calling 800-272-8161, ext 4293 or ext 4206. Respond ASAP!!!!

## FREE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES ONLINE WORKSHOP



The Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama and the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Mississippi are sponsoring a free, online workshop March 8-26. Presenters Dr. Monte Graham (on jellyfish), Dr. Heather Crawford (on invasive plants), and Dr. Harriet Perry (on invasive crabs and some invasive mammals) will each host an online session as they probe different aquatic nuisance species. The three week workshop is funded by the National Sea Grant College Program. For registration materials and more information about the workshop, visit <http://www.coexploration.org/ans>

## BEFORE YOU SPEAK

- T** is it true?
- H** is it helpful?
- I** is it inspiring?
- N** is it necessary?
- K** is it kind?



## **BULLETIN BOARD:**

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Apply for the FDA/NSTA Professional Development Program in Food Science

<http://www.nsta.org/fda/>

Applications are being accepted for the FDA/NSTA Professional Development in Food Science Program. Spend a weeklong, all expenses paid training opportunity in the Nation's Capitol! The NSTA has partnered with the FDA to provide a sustained training workshop during the summer of 2004 for middle level and high school teachers in Food Science. Relevant topics such as food borne illness and irradiation are covered in exciting field trips and lab experiments. Go to [www.nsta.org/fda](http://www.nsta.org/fda) for more information and the application. Workshop dates are July 18-25, 2004 for High School educators and August 1-8, 2004 for Middle School educators. The application deadline March 1, 2004 and applicants will be notified by April 25, 2004.

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Simulate Molecules with the Molecular Workbench Project

<http://workbench.concord.org/>

The Molecular Workbench Project offers a molecular simulation engine, a set of tools that can be used to compute & visualize the motion of atoms & molecules. Five units draw on molecular models generated by the simulation engine to help students learn about kinetic energy, states of matter; aquatic solutions in & around cells; monomers & polymers; and protein shaping. Thirty-five activities include how hot air balloons work, how superballs are like atoms, what matter is made of, and "rainstorm in a bag."

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Check out the Presidential Awards Program by visiting [www.nsf.gov/pa](http://www.nsf.gov/pa) This outstanding program not only recognizes America's best teachers, but also provides the opportunity for these teachers to serve as models for their colleagues and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Don't miss an opportunity to be a part of this exceptional program.

DragonflyTV Presents Third Season of Science Shows

NSTA is pleased to support the third season of DragonflyTV, the PBS science show for kids ages 9-12. Featuring out-of-this world science performed by down-to-Earth kids, DragonflyTV is a program by and for kids. Whether it's Arizona students probing for life on Mars, a group of California "river rats" exploring water hydraulics while shooting down the American River, or some Minnesota hockey players creating "slapshot science," DragonflyTV is a great source for fun and engaging classroom investigations.

DragonflyTV offers free Educator's Guides (which are also provided in the NSTA journals); an interactive web site; and classroom packs of DFTV Zines, a fun science journal for kids. And this season, DragonflyTV offers exciting new educational features, including Super Do-Its that encourage students to explore a cool science question and post their findings online at <http://www.dragonflytv.org>, and Science Fact or Fiction, featuring students' favorite young celebrities debunking common science misperceptions.

For more information and show times, visit the DragonflyTV web site at <http://www.dragonflytv.org> or send an e-mail to [dragonflytv@tpt.org](mailto:dragonflytv@tpt.org), to learn more.

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Interested in recycling and preserving nature and natural resources? Would you like to learn how to make a flower pot out of recycled newspaper? Check out an organization call Trailblazers at

<http://www.trailblazer.org/flower.htm>

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Check this site out, it was designed to teach young and old about the wonders of birds. The most exciting part of the site is the Virtual Owl Pellet Dissection. Many interactive activities await you.

<http://www.kidwings.com>