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Page Keeley gave a well-received keynote address that educators from kindergarten to college enjoyed!  Team Schmitty the Weatherdog entertained attendees non-stop!  Over 150 educators attended our most successful conference to date.  Thank you to the presenters, vendors, non-profits, members, and all attendees who shared ideas and enjoyed the day at LaSalle.  If you attended, please be sure to complete the survey so we can find ways to improve the annual event.  Link to survey:  [http://goo.gl/forms/pFbaOe9KcH](http://goo.gl/forms/pFbaOe9KcH" \t "_blank)  We appreciate the financial support from our sponsors:  Cengage, Cogent, and Pearson.  If you have an idea for a workshop or event that would be beneficial to RISTA members and educators in RI, please email [carolyn.higgins@warwickschools.org](mailto:carolyn.higgins@warwickschools.org" \t "_blank)  We are planning to schedule presentations for the spring and the fall.  **NGSS Information and Resources:**  Have you seen [www.nexgenscience.org](http://www.nexgenscience.org/" \t "_blank) lately?  Big makeover at the main NGSS site!  Everything is still available but it has sections that are specific to teachers and parents.  Check it out if you haven’t been in a while.  Moving Toward a New Vision of Science Teaching and Learning  Read part two of the blog series from Al Byers, NSTA's expert on teacher professional learning, on the report issued earlier this year from the National Academy of Sciences that identifies specific recommendations that will help teachers, and school and district leaders, meet the vision of the Next Generation Science Standards and the Framework for K–12 Science Education  NGSS@NSTA Hub (new resources are listed!)  55 trained curators have been seeking out quality resources.  Curators are science educators who teach K-12 and have been trained by NSTA to vet resources for each of the NGSS Performance Expectations.  The resources are being uploaded as the resources are reviewed, some PEs are not complete.  Check out the site at ngss.nsta.org and click on ‘The Standards’ tab.  Choose the PE that you need a resource for and scroll to the bottom of the page, resources will be listed at the bottom right corner.  Check back for additional resources!  **Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**  Summer Engineering Workshop at MIT  The Center for Materials Science and Engineering will be running a five-day engineering design workshop for middle and high school science teachers again this summer.  [Review the flyer for details](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/STEPflyer16.pdf" \t "_blank).  PBS series The Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements  Many of you may have seen The Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements when it aired on PBS last summer. The three-hour, NSF-funded series – described by one teacher as “one of the most inspirational and educational programs I have ever seen on television,” tells the amazing human story behind the Periodic Table. Now the producers have used all the material they gathered for the series, including many things that didn’t make it into the broadcast, to create a rich collection of educational materials for science teachers. They include a Teacher’s Guide aligned with the latest science teaching standards, 60 short clips lifted from the series, and 32 short videos, mostly on topics of interest to chemistry teachers. These resources – all FREE – can be found at[www.mysteryofmatter.net.](http://www.mysteryofmatter.net/" \t "_blank)  (Click on For Teachers in the top menu bar.) Check it out and let the producers know what you think by leaving a comment at their Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/mysteryofmatter](https://www.facebook.com/mysteryofmatter" \t "_blank)  Free, Online Textbook for Epidemiology  ActivEpi Web, a unique, interactive textbook for teaching epidemiology that is now available free on-line. It was developed by Emory Professor David Kleinbaum., who is the author of seven epidemiology textbooks. ActivEpi has  been used worldwide for courses and individualized learning, including by high school students.  [Get a copy here!](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/ActivEpi%20Web.docx" \t "_blank)    Summit on ELO for Credit: Creating Opportunities for Personalized Learning  April 1, 2016  8:30am-12:00pm  Providence Public Library  Remarks by Dr. Ken Wagner, Rhode Island Education Commissioner   * Catch up on the state of Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) for credit in Rhode Island. * Join educators, community organizations, and industry mentors, to build partnership that support ELO development.   Registration and full agenda available soon at: [www.afterschoolri.org](http://www.afterschoolri.org/" \t "_blank)  The ACT National STEM Report  The Condition of STEM 2015 reviews the 2015 graduating class in the context of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)-related fields to determine student interest levels in specific STEM fields and, more importantly, readiness in math and science of those interested in STEM careers. Download the full report  Are You Ready for the Astronomical Event of the Decade?  August 21,2017 will be the first total solar eclipse visible in the US in almost 40 years.  Everyone in the US will see a partial eclipse, but only those people in a narrow 60-mile across band will see the total eclipse.  The website[http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html](http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html" \t "_blank) provides an interactive map where you can get details regarding the eclipse for your location and where you have to go to see the total eclipse.  NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) produced an Eclipse Observing Guide ([http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf](http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf%C2%A0" \t "_blank);) that you will find useful. It provides details about the solar eclipse, what causes it, and how to view it safely.  The eclipse may seem some time away, but housing along the path of totality is already filling up, so the time is now to beginning planning for this astronomical event of the decade.  RI Educator Aboard Joides  Follow your colleague, Nina Rooks Cast, as she sails aboard the JOIDES Resolution for two months on Expedition 361: Southern African Climates.  You can follow her blog posts on joidesresolution.org , and checkout the other social media outreach information available via links on the website. There are also over 180 curriculum lesson plans available through the resources page that can be narrowed down by specific subject matter and/or age/grade level.  There's also a link to the live broadcast request page, where you can sign up for a 40 minute zoom chat with Nina for your classroom - most slots in February are already filled, but there are plenty available in March.  Lastly, there is also a link to sign up yourself for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - they are currently accepting applications for the next FIVE expeditions!  Hope to hear from you all!  NECAP Test Development  The Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum has two opportunities each year for classroom teachers and other educators to participate in the development of the NECAP tests for grade 4, 8 and 11 in science. Teacher committees are essential to the work of creating a valid and reliable assessment system. Many educators have participated in test development committees and have learned a lot not only from the process but also from educators representing all three NECAP Science States (New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont).  Educators must complete an application and meet minimum criteria in order to be considered for participation on one of the committees. **Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 2016**. **NOTE:** Even if you have applied and/or attended in the past you still must complete an application each year in order to be considered for participation. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, June 10, 2016.  **Location and Dates:**The “Item Review Committee” (IRC) and “Bias & Sensitivity Review Committee” meetings will be held in **Concord, NH.** The Bias & Sensitivity Review Committee will be held on **August 4th,2016** and the Item Review Committee (IRC) will take place on **August 4th and 5th, 2016**.  Please see link for more detailed information and an application form.  Applications can also be found on the RIDE web page at: [www.ride.ri.gov/NECAP-Test-Development](http://www.ride.ri.gov/NECAP-Test-Development" \t "_blank) Feel free to share.  NSTA Conferences  NSTA conferences offer the latest in science/STEM content, pedagogy, and research to enhance and expand your professional growth. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to collaborate with science education leaders and your peers. Each year, NSTA hosts a national conference on science education (in the spring), three area conferences (in the fall), and a STEM Forum & Expo. Learn more  **2016 Conferences:**  **Nashville (National): Mar.31–Apr. 3, 2016**  **STEM Forum & Expo: Denver, July 27–29, 2016**  **Opportunities for Students**  Engineering for You Video Contest  The National Academy of Engineering has announced the 3rd annual Engineering for You Video Contest (E4U3) on Mega Engineering! Most of humankind’s biggest endeavors are mega engineering projects that provide solutions that span disciplines, geographies, and cultural boundaries.  We are looking for 1 to 2 minute videos that (i) introduce a particular mega-engineering project, (ii) highlight its importance/contribution to people and society, and (iii) suggest contributions to its development.  The Grand Prize of **$25,000** will go to the most inspiring 1-2 minute video. We hope that you will participate in the contest and also encourage those in your communities to enter as well!  The E4U3 Video Contest is open for video submissions from **March 1, 2016 to May 31, 2016**.  Visit [www.e4uvideocontest.org](http://www.nae.edu/e4u3/" \t "_blank) to learn more!  For any additional questions, please email [E4Uvideocontest@nae.edu](mailto:E4Uvideocontest@nae.edu?subject=E4U3%20Video%20Contest" \t "_blank).  Register Now for April Vacation Week’s  Adventures in Space Program  **Attention Future Space Explorers!** Science educator Dave Heshion brings his popular five-day space odyssey to Frosty Drew for girls and boys in grades 1-5.  **Adventures in Space**allows children to explore the solar system, the mechanics of flight, life aboard a space station, and more. Students design their own star wheels for gazing, Mars base or Space Station, and build their own rockets that will launch on the final day of the program. Register early for this fun, hand-on vacation week program!  **When:** Monday, April 18 through Friday, April 22, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon  **Where:**Frosty Drew Nature Center, Ninigret Park, 62 Park Lane, Charlestown, RI 02813.  **Fee:** $150 for program and materials  ($120 for Frosty Drew family members)  **Registration is due by April 4.**  **For Info:**email [naturalist@frostydrew.org](mailto:naturalist@frostydrew.org" \o "Email us" \t "_blank) or call [401-364-9508](file://localhost/tel/401-364-9508" \t "_blank)  **Website:** [http://frostydrew.org/events.dc/show/event-468/](http://frostydrew.org/events.dc/show/event-468/" \t "_blank)  “Ask Astronaut Tim” Contest  Rhode Island PK-8 students have a rare opportunity to talk with the International Space Station during schools hours the week of May 2.  This will be RI’s first-ever, school-to-space station chat.  All Saints STEAM Academy in Middletown has been chosen by ARISS,an international space consortium, to host the event and has launched a statewide “Ask Astronaut Tim”  contest to solicit questions. Three winners will be invited to pose their question directly to the orbiting astronaut. See bitly.com/AskAstroTim for details and the entry form. Submission deadline is April 10.  Questions can go to Mike Cullen,  [missioncontrol@RISpaceStation.com](mailto:missioncontrol@RISpaceStation.com" \t "_blank)  2016 Ocean Science Exploration Camp  Registration is now open!  The 2016 Inner Space Center's Ocean Science Exploration Camp will be held Monday, August 15 -Friday, August 19, 2016, and will focus on chemical oceanography. Campers will conduct field and lab-based experiments to learn about and measure important water characteristics including temperature, salinity, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and nutrient levels, as well as investigate the potential impacts of climate change and marine pollutants on the ocean ecosystem.  Camp is intended for children 11-15 years old. If you have any questions, please contact ISC Education Specialist Holly Morin by e-mail, [holly\_morin@uri.edu](mailto:holly_morin@uri.edu" \t "_blank) or phone, (401) 874-6414.  Send Kids to "Minecraft" Summer Camp at Home  Summer can be a tough time for kids if there's nothing goal-oriented to focus on, and if getting them somewhere for a camp experience (whether day or stay) isn't possible, what can you do to keep them stimulated, learning, and having fun? If your kids are into Minecraft, we have a great idea. Connected Camps run safe and dedicated Minecraft servers for kids to play and learn on in a secure, monitored environment. And over the summer, they run virtual summer camps for kids to play and take their Minecraft fun to the next level. Learn more     |  | | --- | | Follow RISTA on Twitter |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2016 {RISTA}. All rights reserved. Contact email: [{ristanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:%7Bristanewsletter@gmail.com" \t "_blank)} | | |