

Think's Links!

Selected highlights from Verizon Thinkfinity!



News From Our Office

Registration for the Train-The-Trainer Thinkfinity Training August 6-7, at the Illinois Office of Educational Services, in Springfield, closes July 24, 2009. This FREE training is a great way to plan for in house inservice, and get CPDUS, as well as learning this amazing program! We can only accept the first 20 registrants, so sign up TODAY! <http://www.ioes.org/Thinkfinity%20Registration%20Form.pdf>



NEWS and NOTES

Change is coming to Verizon Thinkfinity

There is a new Thinkfinity/Verizon Foundation Logo. It has been unveiled and is to be used on all Thinkfinity information, flyers, etc. We are in the process of redoing the bookmarks and will have them available shortly. Note the new logo on the bottom of this newsletter. Please use it on all your informational pieces. When referring to Thinkfinity we are asked to use "Verizon Thinkfinity" as our verbal reference.

Check out the training resources in the Trainer Toolbox. There are several "new" or updated materials. I urge you to review this site regularly and open the new items to see what is going on at Verizon Thinkfinity. A few of you have had problems with calendaring and following up on your trainings, check out the PowerPoint titled "**4 Steps to Conducting an Official Thinkfinity Training**" for assistance. It can be found in the 'before' training materials.

A new information brochure has been introduced. The old brochure is obsolete because of the new Verizon Thinkfinity logo and because of changes that have been made by partners. If you have any of these brochures please throw them out (or into recycling). I have ordered a supply of the new brochures so if you would like some to give to the people whom you are trying recruit for training, let me know. As soon as they have been shipped here, I will forward them to those who have requested copies.

The new website is being prepared for launching. We should see it appear early in September. We have been assured that this is an electrifying, different and improved website – they are referring to it as '2 minutes to excitement.' This refers to the fact that those they have tested it only need 2 minutes to feel comfortable with the site and the changes.

Coming in August – Expert Hubs – featuring guest experts who will point users to Verizon Thinkfinity resources and answer questions about the subject area featured. Staff is looking for teachers and others who would like to be a hub expert. If you would like to be or know someone who should be considered for an expert hub, let me know. We are looking for people who are bloggers and who would like to share their expertise with others.

Don't Forget

It is extremely important for all trainers to calendar trainings, get the participants logged in, and to complete the follow-up surveys. Both the participant and field trainers' surveys are the means that are used to show that Verizon Thinkfinity is a valuable asset to the school and community. Verizon Staff use the survey results to validate the work that is being done and to get funds for things like redesigning the website, updating training resources, and crosswalking resources with state learning standards. So do your part and get every training and participant accounted for.

Kayti's Picks

<http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/>

Brought to you by IRA and NCTE, this site offers out-of-school reading and writing activities, podcasts, videos for use with children ages 4 to 18.

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lesson=EM374&page=teacher>

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the ice cream sundae was invented on July 8, in 1881. In this lesson, students find out why Ben & Jerry's has to keep choosing which flavors to keep selling—and which ones to bury in their Flavor Graveyard. The economic concepts of scarcity, productive resources and entrepreneurship are addressed by analyzing a real company with a product that really captures students' attention.

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=946

July 20 marks the 40th Anniversary of Neil Armstrong's historic moonwalk. In this lesson, students begin by accessing prior knowledge through an initial writing activity. Ensuing discussions, read-alouds, and the creation of a picture dictionary take students to the moon, while further building their vocabulary. Students use an online Alphabet Organizer to complete a final writing activity, which they compare to the writing they did during the first session. Although this lesson focuses on the moon, its activities can be used with any content area topic.

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.php?DocID=34>

During the "lazy days" of summer, I thought a lesson on Adolescent Sleep would be appropriate. In this lesson, the student will discuss, summarize, and express alternative positions regarding a study on adolescent sleep.

Verizon Thinkfinity is an online portal with over 55,000 free resources available to educators.

For more information on Verizon Thinkfinity
Contact Debbie Potts, Illinois Thinkfinity State Education Partner
dpotts@ioes.org or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 233

Or

Kayti Holley-Goleman, Thinkfinity Project Assistant
khgoleman@ioes.org or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 230