



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER *February 2008*

Welcome to **EDUCATION CONNECTION**—Education Services' monthly e-Newsletter designed to help the educational community stay current regarding Mississippi Public Broadcasting's educational services, programming and information!

This newsletter is part of a broader overall education communications plan to increase the exposure and use of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Division. We hope you'll find this resource supports your own work to educate students and others in your community. Please feel free to copy or forward to teachers and others in your school or district.

If you would like to join our Education Services' distribution list and receive important updates for Educators, or if you wish to no longer receive these newsletters, please e-mail darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

Educational Outreach

MPB Announces 2008 *Reading Rainbow* Contest

Calling all young artists and writers! Mississippi Public Broadcasting invites youngsters to participate in the 14th annual ***Reading Rainbow* Young Writers and Illustrators Contest**. Children from kindergarten through third grade are encouraged to write and illustrate their own stories and submit them to MPB by the **March 7, 2008, deadline**.

Each child who enters receives a special Certificate of Achievement signed by LeVar Burton, host of the *Reading Rainbow* series. First, second and third place winners are selected for each grade level, with each receiving a *Reading Rainbow* backpack, a DVD copy of a *Reading Rainbow* program, and being treated to a special Winners Celebration Event in Jackson. First place winners will advance to the national

competition. The contest is conducted in cooperation with MPB and WNED-TV of Buffalo, New York, and Smarterville Productions LLC. *Reading Rainbow* is broadcast Monday through Friday at noon on MPB.

Visit www.mpbonline.org for **2008 Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest** entry forms, rules and information.

Educational Technology

Become a STAR on *DE streaming!*

Your most valuable resources are your peers. With Discovery Education streaming, you have access to the Discovery Educator Network (DEN), a growing community of educators who collaborate and share their experiences and best practices.

In addition to having access to DE streaming's impressive library of more than 40,000 digital resources, Mississippi teachers can become a *Star Discovery Educator!* As part of the STAR program, educators will gain access to even more information than they thought possible. *Star Discovery Educators* can enter contests, submit blogs, attend special workshops and receive valuable classroom resources.

To obtain your school's passcode to start using [Discovery Education streaming](#), contact Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Department at (800) 922-9698.

Visit [Discovery Educator Network](#) and become a STAR today!

Special Contest Announcement for Educators!

Any Mississippi school that has the most teachers to sign up as a *Star Discovery Educator* will be awarded an LCD Projector with an addition bulb. In addition, the top four schools will receive a free webinar from Discovery Education (a \$750 value). The contest ends **March 31, 2008**. The winners will be notified by Discovery Education.

Early Childhood

***Between The Lions* Preschool Literacy Project Receives Illustrious Award at NETA**

MPB received the 2008 National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) award in Instructional Media for **MPB's *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative** during the annual NETA Conference held in Columbus, Ohio, on January 24.

According to MPB Executive Director Marie Antoon, "Education is a core mission for Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The ***Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative** exemplifies how MPB provides educational services and resources that are meaningful, impactful and successful directly to the diverse needs of our communities in the area of early childhood development."

Between the Lions features a loveable family of lions— father Theo, mother Cleo, son Lionel, and daughter Leona—to introduce pre-kindergarten children to the concepts of print, language, and reading. The same video segments broadcast on MPB each weekday and on public broadcasting television stations nationwide are being used to stimulate early learning hands-on reading activities in the participating child care centers.

Recent research findings concluded that the literacy environment of the *Between the Lions* participating classrooms improved dramatically as a result of their involvement in the project – as much as 58% to 100% – including significant gains in letter knowledge, the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom, front to back), comprehension that builds their vocabulary, and improvements in the classroom that promote learning as fun and exciting. The findings are stated in the University of Mississippi Study using the Early Language Literacy and Classroom Observation (ELLCO) measurement.

The *Between the Lions* program airs weekdays on MPB TV at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education

Online PD Available for GED Instructors

What's new about the GED exam? What are answer grids? How much time will students have on each section? What do students need to know about the essay? You have questions—we have answers! Whether you're a GED teacher or a seasoned veteran, you'll appreciate having an in-depth look at the new current GED exam and an opportunity to practice what you will be teaching. You may want to start with the free online training at www.ket.org/ged2002.

This lively interactive site features an orientation to web-based training; an overview of the current GED Tests; and information, quizzes, and games covering all five GED subject areas. This online training is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—and it's free! Three self-study guides give instructors an in-depth look at the current GED exam, with self-tests, sample questions similar to those students will encounter on the GED exam, effective skill-development strategies, copy masters for the classroom, and plenty of teaching tips. The five GED content areas have been combined into three training strands:

- **Math**—addresses problem-solving strategies and provides instruction on the Casio® fx260 calculator and the new grid answer formats.

- **Writing**—covers multiple-choice questions, sentence structure, organization, usage, and the mechanics of writing.
- **Critical Thinking and Graphic Skills**—addresses critical thinking and graphic skills as they appear on the Social Studies, Science, and Reading tests.

Helpful Links and Resources

The following websites are available for additional teaching tips, professional development, activities and information:

PBS.org

[*Discovery Education streaming*](#)

[PBS Teachers](#)

[Mississippi Department of Education](#)

[PBS TeacherLine](#)

[Test Prep Review](#)

[PBS Kids](#)

www.gedonline.org

[PBS Kids Go!](#)

[Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning](#)

[PBS Parents](#)

[State Board for Community Colleges](#)

www.TV411.org

[PBS Literacylink](#)

www.NetSmartz.org

www.ket.org/ged2002

How Can We Help – What Do You Want to See?

We want to hear from you, and learn what kinds of content you would like to see in the monthly MPB Education Services e-Newsletter. Was the information in this issue helpful? What more would you like to see? We are also seeking questions and comments about the format of this newsletter.

Finally, we want to use this newsletter to answer your questions about Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services. Please email all comments and questions to darrell.lee@mpbonline.org, or you can call us at (800) 922-9698.

For more information about our services and programming, visit our website at www.mpbonline.org.

Our mailing address is:

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Educating Entertaining Enlightening