



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Educating Entertaining Enlightening

EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER
July 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 Department. 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.

Special Announcements

COME ONE, COME ALL...TO THE WORLD OF SCOOTER PAWS!

There will be a kick-off celebration for the all-new MPB KIDS CLUB on **Saturday, July 26, 2008** in Jackson, Mississippi at LeFleur's Bluff State Park from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event is called: *MPB Presents: THE WORLD OF SCOOTER PAWS!*

Adults and children of all ages are invited to come out and enjoy a fun-filled day of food, activities, games, and special guests. On the roster will be the inquisitive club mascot Scooter Paws, the amazing Inky the Clown, PBS characters Clifford the Big Red Dog, Digit from *Cyberchase* and Super WHY, plus many, many more! There will

be a clown and puppet shows; several photo opportunities; a *Teletubbies Get Up and Go* activity area; face painting; NASA hands-on activities and special tours.

Participants can also visit the exhibit area to receive valuable information about PBS, health and wellness, conservation, and literacy. Local agencies such as the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, NASA, the Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools, The National Educational Theatre and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi will be in attendance.

MPB KIDS CLUB is a state wide club for children to engage in educational activities, and attend meetings and be involved with MPB productions. The KIDS CLUB provides kids a platform to showcase their talents and ideas, and to enter contest and receive special prizes. Any child ages 4-12 can join the MPB KIDS CLUB for free. Simply download an application at www.mpbonline.org and mail or fax it in to the information on the form.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this exciting day for the kids! For additional information, contact Darrell L. Lee at darrell.lee@mpbonline.org. Please visit the MPB website for any additional information about the MPB KIDS CLUB or THE WORLD OF SCOOTER PAWS Kids Day extravaganza.

Educational Technology

MPB Continues to Provide Valuable Online Resources for Educators

PBS Teachers Connect is the newest resource available for Mississippi teachers. PBS Teachers Connect is an online community for preK-12 educators that supports the advancement of digital media content and technology integration in education. It provides teachers, school library media specialists, technology coordinators, early childhood educators and other education professionals with opportunities to share and support the effective use of instructional technology and multimedia to enhance student learning. Educators can search more than 3,000 standards-based classroom activities, lesson plans, interactive resources and other materials on the PBS Teachers Web site, then easily bookmark, annotate, share and manage their tagged content within the PBS Teachers Connect community. Many of the resources feature PBS' award-winning programming and content, including on-demand streaming video from select PBS programs. Go to <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/connect/> for more information.

PBS Teachers Domain is a partnership between PBS and WGBH – Boston. The professional development courses through Domain are not free. However, if teachers are interested in these courses, pricing can be negotiated. The resources are free and currently contain science K-12: earth and space science; engineering; life science; and physical science. Please visit <http://www.teachersdomain.org/> for additional information.

PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection combines the power of online communication and collaboration with trusted, valuable content. Leverage PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection to increase the power of the current coaching model in your school. It provides a rich, flexible set of tools to help coaches search for appropriate professional development resources, save these resources using a unique custom labeling system, and share them with the educators you're coaching. PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is the productive, collaborative, and innovative way to support your instructional coaching methods and reach more teachers. This resource is fee-based. If you are interested in Peer Connection, MPB can use its partnership relationship with PBS TeacherLine to secure pricing for you.

Apple's iTunes U has a new section that contains a wealth of free online content for K-12 educators. The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) announced the availability of these materials during the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in San Antonio July 2. As with other content on iTunes U, which before had been geared primarily toward college and adult learners, the new resources can be downloaded to a computer or mobile media player for easy playback and review. Visit http://www.apple.com/support/itunes_u/ for more information.

Educational Outreach

***Super WHY* Camp Promotes Reading in School-aged Kids**

Mississippi Public Broadcasting will host its first ever *Super WHY* Reading Camp, for children ages 4-5, on **July 21-July 25** from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Super WHY is a 3-D animated adventure series, produced by the creators of *Blue's Clues*, designed to provide children ages 3-6 with the critical skills they need to read (and love to read!).

The show is based on the adventures of four fairytale friends who live in Storybrook Village: Whyatt Beanstalk, Jack's younger brother; Red, from Little Red Riding Hood; Pig, from the Three Little Pigs; and Princess, from The Princess and the Pea. In each episode, they transform into their superhero alter egos, the Super Readers, and literally fly inside books using the power of literacy to solve problems. All the while they engage a fifth superhero, Super You, who is actually the viewer.

For a *Super WHY* Reading Camp application, please visit www.mpbonline.org. Unfortunately, there is limited space so applications are accepted on a first come first served basis.

Early Childhood

Continued Research Proves *Between the Lions* is Successful with Preschoolers!

The *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative is completing its third year of mentoring in preschool classrooms. Seventy four classrooms and 1375 children have participated in the project from fall 2005 to spring 2008. In the 2006-2007 findings, the *Between the Lions* Literacy Curriculum demonstrated significant gains in letter recognition, phonemic awareness and other benchmarks for four-year olds.

The literacy program created by Mississippi Public Broadcasting and Mississippi State University provides technical assistance and mentoring to local childcare centers. Such efforts have demonstrated gains of as much as 142% in standardized classroom literacy environment evaluations.

In addition, after intensive mentoring, these gains are sustained in later years, which subsequently lead to better literacy gains for children in learning environments. The 2007 – 2008 research findings should be completed by August 2008.

Adult Education

Viewing MPB's ABE Programs has gotten a lot easier!

Tired of waiting weeks before the episode on *Geometry* is broadcast again? Did the VCR just eat your video lesson on *Fiction*? Fret not! *GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills* and *TV411* are being videostreamed on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's website. From any Internet-connected computer you will have immediate access to content. This allows you to stream any full-length video whenever it's convenient for you. Start streaming now at <http://www.mpbonline.org/educators/EduAdultLearning.htm>.

Helpful Links and Resources

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

[PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org)

[PBS Kids](http://www.pbs.org/kids)

[PBS Teachers](http://www.pbs.org/teachers)

[PBS Kids Go!](http://www.pbs.org/kids/go)

[PBS TeacherLine](http://www.pbs.org/teacherline)

[PBS Parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)

[PBS Literacylink](#)

www.ket.org/ged2002

<http://www.ketadultlearning.org/>

www.TV411.org

[Mississippi Department of Education](#)

[Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning](#)

[State Board for Community Colleges](#)

[Test Prep Review](#)

www.gedonline.org

www.NetSmartz.org

[Discovery Educator Network](#)

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.

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