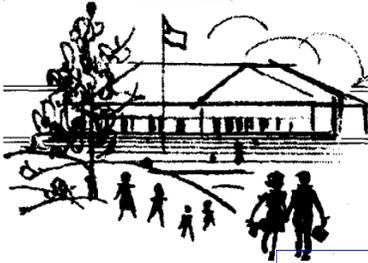


July 2013



Graham County School News



Graham County School Superintendent

Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 9, Issue 7

"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website
www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

We just finished up the 2013 Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy, known as "SEATA." It was a great success! We appreciate our local educators who taught classes for us, and we also appreciate everyone who came to SEATA as learners. Please mark your calendars for June 2-5, 2014 and "Save your seat at SEATA."

What's next? Thirty-four teachers will be embarking on 100 hours of math professional development beginning July 15th. The second cohort of Intel Math is ready to take on this rewarding challenge. On July 29th we are sponsoring a "DIBELS Next" training for K-3 educators. Registration information is inside this issue. Seating is limited!

On September 17th the Arizona Department of Education is bringing their Best Assistive Technology Mobile lab to town. We will also resume our Math and English Language Arts Common Core Coaching schedules. A Project Archaeology training is being planned for Sept. 27-28th and we are also planning on hosting repeats of some of our technology sessions from SEATA. We are busy bringing good things to our teachers and students! Have a wonderful rest of the summer and Happy 4th of July!

Contact us:

Donna McGaughey
Superintendent
921 Thatcher Blvd.
Safford, AZ 85546
928-428-2880
Fax: 928-428-8824

dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov

Jill Davis, Chief Deputy
jdavis@graham.az.gov

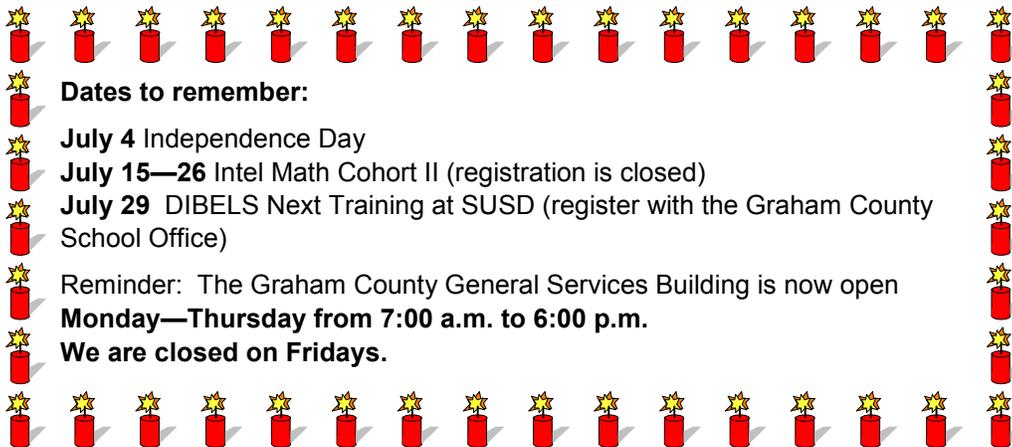
Polly Merriman, Deputy
pmerriman@graham.az.gov

Paulette LeBlanc, Education
Service Agency Coordinator
pleblanc@aznexus.net

Online Registration:
www.graham.az.gov

The Graham County School Office is a member of the East Central Regional Service Center—ECRSC—which includes Gila, Greenlee and Pinal counties.

Our Goal:
Provide Regionally –Based Service, Support and Technical Assistance, in Collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Education Innovation to Race to the Top Participating LEAS to Implement their LEA Scopes of Work



Dates to remember:

July 4 Independence Day

July 15—26 Intel Math Cohort II (registration is closed)

July 29 DIBELS Next Training at SUSD (register with the Graham County School Office)

Reminder: The Graham County General Services Building is now open

Monday—Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We are closed on Fridays.

2013 Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy

The 2013 Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy (SEATA) recently took place during the week of June 3-6th. Over one hundred thirty educators from Graham and Greenlee Counties, received high quality instruction in research-based teaching practices, math, science and technology integration.

The academy is an annual event presented by Donna McGaughey, Graham County School Superintendent and Tom Powers, Greenlee County School Superintendent. The 2013 SEATA was enhanced by a partnership with Thatcher Unified Schools through a Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold grant. Due to this grant, our educators were able to choose from over 25 technology integration classes, in addition to dozens of other sessions which focused on math, science, and English Language Arts.

The goal of the academy is to continue bringing high quality professional development opportunities and experiences to our educators. SEATA serves our local teachers as a venue to study and learn new ways to effectively present core content. Many of our local educators spend the school year working on their "signature lessons" and in turn, present them to the educators at the academy. For the most part, it is "teachers teaching teachers" which makes SEATA a unique and rewarding experience for everyone.

The week began with keynote addresses offered by Sean Wenham representing Freeport-McMoRan, and Selena Llamas representing Expect More Arizona. Educators learned more about the grants available from FMI which range from \$500 classroom grants to Community Investment Fund grants which could be in the tens of thousands. Ms. Llamas showed brief clips of the southern Arizona winners from the recent Excellence Tour. She also provided information on how schools can engage parents and the community in becoming educational partners.

The teachers were able to make choices from 78 unique breakout sessions. They were given the opportunity to preregister and select classes that fit their needs and subject areas. Locally, Eastern Arizona College faculty, BLM, the Freeport-McMoRan Central Analytical Service Center (CASC) and Mt. Graham International Observatory scientists provided exceptional learning experiences. Dozens of our own teachers provided sessions ranging from technology integration strategies and art integration to science and learning how to create student-driven video conferences. There are many free, user-friendly online tools available, and our goal is to assist teachers and school districts in accessing these resources.

By collaborating with Paul Anger, Director of Discovery Park at EAC, we were able to send two groups of educators up to Mt. Graham for tours of the world-renowned telescopes. Other highlights included the addition of social studies integration in the form of Project Archaeology and several sessions of economics. "PA" was presented by Paulette LeBlanc in collaboration with Dan McGrew from BLM, and through our partnership with U of A and the Thomas R. Brown Foundation, we were able to offer the economics sessions. Four groups of educators toured the world-class CASC to learn more about the copper mining process.

The feedback from the academy was overwhelmingly positive with dozens of teachers commenting that the professional development received at the SEATA continues to be some of the best they have ever experienced. In addition to the Graham and Greenlee County Superintendents, Donna McGaughey and Tom Powers, the SEATA planning team included Suzanne Menges, Amy West, Lynette Mulleneaux, Henry Dunkerson, Paulette LeBlanc, Carol Elders and Steve Napier. Next year's academy will be held during the week of June 2-5, 2014. Mark your calendars!

For more information, contact the Graham County School Office at 928-428-2880, and follow updates in the *Graham County School News*.

Are You Ready for a DIBELS Next Transition Workshop?

WHO should attend?

K-3 teachers, paraprofessionals, reading specialists, special education teachers and administrators who are familiar with DIBELS and wish to transition to DIBELS Next for universal screening, benchmark assessment, and progress monitoring. It is also appropriate for those who wish to refresh their DIBELS Next knowledge and skills.

WHEN will the training take place?

Monday July 29, 2013

8:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(8:00 - 11:30, lunch on your own, 12:30 - 4:00)

Participants will receive 7 hours of professional development credit.

Please bring your own stopwatch!

Other materials will be provided.

WHERE will training take place?

SUSD Board Room, 734 11th Street, Safford

Please enter through the west door.

FACILITATORS: Local DIBELS Next Trainers

SPONSOR: Donna McGaughey, Graham County School Superintendent

To Register:

Call the Graham County School Office at 928-428-2880
or email Polly at pmerriman@graham.az.gov no later than Wed. July 25th.



This workshop is **FREE!** Tell your friends!

Save the Date

The Batmobile is coming to Graham County!

No, not THAT Batmobile. This one is the
Best Assistive Technology Mobile lab.

Assistive Technology Specialists will bring a whole van of assistive technology gadgets and gizmos for you to explore—from low tech to high tech and everything in between.

When: Tuesday September 17, 2013

Where: Graham County General Services Building

Safford, AZ

Times: TBA

Presented by: Mary Kenney, Assistive Technology Specialist
Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services

www.azed.gov/special-education/assistive-technology/

More information will be forwarded to all schools as it is received.



Arizona Common Core Standards Resources

Arizona educators, families and others can find out all information regarding Arizona's Common Core Standards by visiting the following website:

ArizonaCommonCore.org

Preparing Arizona students for college, career and life

Across the state, **Arizona's Common Core Standards** are being implemented to ensure that all students have the academic knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, career and life. To support their implementation, the Arizona Public Engagement Task Force, an independently formed statewide collaborative of more than 30 organizations, has worked in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education to provide information and resources to parents, educators, students and businesses leaders about the standards. The Task Force has also created the Arizona's Common Core Standards *Communications Tool Kit* that provides superintendents, principals, teacher and other community leaders with the tools to communicate to families and community members about the standards.

Backpack Saturday

We're giving away 28,000

Backpacks to

Arizona Students!

Saturday July 27, 2013

8:00 a.m.

The first 100 children who visit their local restaurant will receive a Free Backpack!

Backpacks provided at McDonald's restaurants throughout Arizona.

***Excludes Walmart McDonald's and shopping mall McDonald's restaurant locations.**

Visit <http://community.mcdonalds.com/phoenix> for other school and health related events happening near you.

New Features! We hope you like the new look and feel of the PBS LearningMedia site! Try viewing it on your tablet or phone for an optimized experience! Explore great new content collections like these:

- ⇒ Middle School Literacy
- ⇒ High School Math
- ⇒ Cyberlearning in STEM
- ⇒ Art and Science of Growing Food
- ⇒ Culture and Identity

With a growing collection of over 30,000 free videos, lesson plans, audio clips, essays, and interactive games, PBS LearningMedia makes searching for quality classroom content easy and stress-free! Find the resources you need and save your favorites for easy-access anytime.

Create an account at:

www.pbslearningmedia.org



Join today! Resources for PreK—16

Featuring media from NASA, The Library of Congress, The National Archives, and over 80 PBS Stations

Content is FREE and the BEST OF PUBLIC MEDIA
High-quality public media producers, stations and partners

THOUSANDS of Digital Media Resources
Video, Audio, Images, Interactives, Lesson Plans

Built FOR TEACHERS to easily find content
Search, Save, Share, and Organize content

CUSTOMIZABLE to Local Needs
Station Localization, District/State custom features

PBS is Americas largest classroom, the nation's largest stage for the arts and a trusted window to the world.

Eight Passport - Become an ASSET educator and receive exclusive savings!

Eight Educational Outreach—ASSET Professional Development Team

asset@asu.edu 602-496-1104



Taking a Bite Out of School Absences

Did you know that dental problems are among the leading causes of school absenteeism and that decay can start in the tiny teeth of babies and toddlers? The AZ Department of Health Services estimates 30% of Arizona's 2-to-4-year-olds have untreated tooth decay and more than half of 3-year-olds have never seen a dentist. If not addressed, that decay can lead to failure to thrive, speech delays, and trouble concentrating in school.

As their child's first teachers, parents and caregivers can take simple steps to keep young teeth healthy and prevent future problems. For babies:

- Avoid passing germs by not sharing spoons or licking pacifiers;
- Keep the bottle out of the crib;
- Serve juice in a cup, not a bottle;
- Clean baby's mouth with a soft cloth or infant toothbrush; and,

Take your baby to the dentist by his or her first birthday.

For children age 1 and older:

- Limit sweets, snack foods, and sweet drinks;
- Brush your child's teeth with a soft toothbrush twice a day;
- Look at your child's teeth and gums monthly. Healthy teeth should all be one color.
- Make sure your child drinks from a cup and focus on water with fluoride, milk or small amounts of 100% fruit juice; and,

Give your child healthy meals and snacks.

By following these recommendations, we can send our children to school with healthy teeth and gums, and prevent future absences.

The Graham/Greenlee First Things First Regional Council funds a birth-to-five oral health program through a grant to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. For information, contact Rexann Rogers at (928) 428-2611.



Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

Esri Education Site License Program for Arizona K-12 Schools

Arizona has a statewide site license for this program and it is at **no cost**. The license may be free, but if you are new to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), you will want to do some self-training before you install it at your school.

It is highly likely that you don't need the full package. For small projects, you may find the free software available on the Esri website is easier for you to utilize.

If you are new to GIS, we highly encourage you to do the basics at <http://www.esri.com/what-is-gis>

You can apply for the full Esri software:

http://perceval.bio.nau.edu/grail_form/default.aspx

D-Backs Program Grants

D-Backs program grants are given statewide to non-profit organizations. Funds for these grants are raised throughout the season through team fundraising events, including the annual Evening on the Diamond benefit dinner, Shirts Off Our D-Backs and additional events. All 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Arizona are welcome to apply for funding, however, funding must be serving the people of Arizona. The deadline is open and the amount of grant funding available for projects is \$1,000—\$5,000. For more info:

<http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/community/grants.jsp>

Sail the Book

<http://www.sailthebook.net>

Promotes maritime literature—to blend art, history and science using Google Earth.

Sign up for e-Newsletters

US Government Mint

www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/network

Annenberg Learner

www.learner.org/mailman/listinfo/updates

www.learner.org/about/news/updates

Arizona Project WET

<http://ag.arizona.edu/arizonawet>

NASA Education

www.nasa.gov/education

Earth Observatory

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD>

SESE—ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration

<http://sese.asu.edu/newsletter>

“The Ugly Journey of our Trash”

<http://www.projectaware.org/infographic>

This Project Aware marine debris info-graphic now available to embed on your site or blog or as a printable version for classroom, campus or other public spaces.

Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60

Deadline: November 1

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to any qualifying K-12 school enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60. The competitive, nationwide funding program can help your school jumpstart and sustain healthy nutrition and physical activity improvements. Go to:

http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds_for_futp60.php



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Verizon Foundation Grants

Deadline: Continuous, Jan.- Oct.

Elementary and secondary schools registered with the National Center for Education Statistics, as well as eligible nonprofits, may apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Verizon awards grants to innovative, technology-based approaches to literacy and K-12 education.

www.verizonfoundation.org

Intel Community Grants

Deadline: Quarterly

Intel Corporation is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the communities where the company has a major presence. Intel vigorously supports education through grants for programs that advance science, math and technology education, particularly for women and underserved populations.

<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/corporate-responsibility/applying-for-grants.html>

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education

Application Window: May 1st –Oct. 30th

Please visit www.freeportinmycommunity.com

Click on: Our Programs

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500

A school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year

Teacher of the Year 2013

The Arizona Educational Foundation annually recognizes 10 public school teachers through the Arizona Teacher of the Year program. The winner becomes Arizona's candidate for national Teacher of the Year, receives \$15,000 and a full scholarship for an advanced degree from Argosy University Phoenix, and meets the President of the United States. Runners up receive from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

DEADLINE for nominations: Aug. 1, 2013

<http://azedfoundation.org>

KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can become eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

<http://grants.kaboom.org>

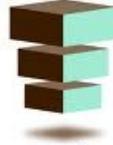
DoSomething.org Seed Grants

Deadline: ongoing

Are you working to start a community action project or program with your friends? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? A \$500 DoSomething Seed Grant is given out every week to help young people like you!

Visit the website:

www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants



EXPECTMOREARIZONA.ORG®
Ready Kids • Ready Graduates • Ready Workforce

Expect More Arizona is building engaged leadership and public commitment to ensure a world-class education system for all students. We raise public awareness, educate, advocate and mobilize Arizonans to support these five building blocks:



World-Class Academic Achievement

Arizona students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs.



Excellence for All

Arizonans embrace the state's diversity and value the potential of every child's life. Every Arizona student has the opportunity to attain an excellent education, regardless of zip code, background, or special need.



Commitment to Innovation

Arizona students are critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who are prepared for the jobs we want in Arizona and who will strengthen Arizona's global leadership and quality of life.



Strategic Investment

New and existing resources are strategically invested in Arizona's students, birth through career, to improve student achievement and to grow the number of world-class educators and schools.



Communities Working Together

Arizona's business and community leaders, elected leaders, voters, educators, parents and students work together with urgency, optimism and a long-term view to ensure that every Arizona student succeeds in college, career and life.

SAFFORD CITY
GRAHAM COUNTY
LIBRARY



808 S. Seventh Ave.
Safford, AZ 85546
(928) 432-4165

The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. It's free to Graham County students. Visit the library's homepage at www.cityofsafford.us and click on the Homework Help icon. This will lead you to the icon for Tutor.com. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with First Things First to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!



The SE Arizona Workforce Connection team promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, workers and communities across Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties workforce solutions that achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

1910 W. Thatcher Blvd.

Safford, AZ

928-432-6932

www.seazworkforce.org

New to the area? Need information?

The Graham County Resource Center is a one-stop shop to find information on all services offered in Graham Co.

It is open Mon.—Fri. from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

301-B East 4th Street (across from the Safford Bowling Alley) Safford, AZ 85546 928-428-7231

The Parent Connection

203 W. 5th Street Safford, AZ 85546



FREE "Parents as Teachers"

Individualized and personalized parenting classes for parents of children from birth to five

Classes are available year-round and will be scheduled to fit your schedule!

RSVP to Debbie Heaton at 928-428-0711 or email dheaton@arizonaschildren.org

Contact Debbie Heaton at 928-428-0711 or email at dheaton@arizonaschildren.org to sign up.

First Steps New Parent Group

Groups are offered at varying times on the following days:

Monday—Tuesday—Wednesday

Please call for times and to RSVP

Please RSVP for any of these classes/opportunities by contacting:

Debbie Heaton

928-428-0711 email:

dheaton@arizonaschildren.org

Sponsored by Freeport-McMoRan

Copper & Gold



Graham County Fair Information

In an effort to generate more fair entries and community involvement, Graham County Parks and Fair Director, Annette Watson will be implementing new programs for the 2013 Graham County Fair. Annette will be providing more information on how her staff will be offering assistance to teachers and students including providing entry tags, pick up and delivery of fair entries, prizes for the most school entries, etc.

Please mark your calendars for Oct 10-13, 2013 and plan on getting your class and individual students entered!

For more information you can contact Annette at awatson@graham.az.gov or 928-428-7189.

Volunteers are always needed, and if you would like to help make the Graham County Fair a success, consider offering your time and talents!



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Teacher Appreciation Night

August 17, 2013

Sponsored by:

Tucson Electric Power

You are invited to a night dedicated to educators. Desert Museum staff and other community education programs will showcase 2013-14 offerings. Registered teachers will receive free admission and a \$5.00 dinner voucher for the Ironwood Terraces Grill and 10% off in the Gift Shops. In addition to these programs, you can enjoy the Museum's Summer Saturday evening programs. **Registration for this event is required.**

Go to: <http://www.desertmuseum.org/visit/teacherapp.php>

From Paul Anger, Director—Eastern Arizona Discovery Park:

Popular Astronomy Lectures Can Now Be Seen on YouTube

We are happy to announce that the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lectures, featuring noted scientists giving nontechnical illustrated lectures on recent developments in astronomy, are now available on their own YouTube Channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/svastronomylectures/>

The talks include:

- * Frank Drake discussing his modern view of the Drake Equation
- * Michael Brown explaining how his discovery of Eris led to the demotion of Pluto
- * Alex Filippenko talking about the latest ideas and observations of black holes
- * Natalie Batalha sharing the latest planet discoveries from the Kepler mission
 - * Anthony Aguirre discussing how it is possible to have multiple universes
 - * Chris McKay updating the Cassini discoveries about Saturn's moon Titan.



Save the Date!

Project Archaeology Workshop

Friday, Sept. 27th

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

and

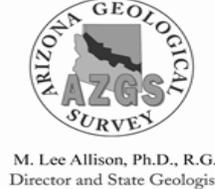
Saturday, Sept. 28th

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

More Information Coming!!!



State of Arizona
Arizona Geological Survey
416 W. Congress, Suite 100
Tucson, Arizona 85701
(520) 770-3500



Michael Conway, Chief,
Geological Extension Service
michael.conway@azgs.az.gov

Darlene Trammell Arizona
Division of Emergency Mgt.
darlene.trammell@azdema.gov

June 12, 2013

Re: GREAT ARIZONA SHAKEOUT **October 17th, 2013**

On 18 October 2012, more than 62,000 Arizonans participated in the first-ever statewide Great Arizona Shakeout - "*Drop, Cover, and Hold On*" - earthquake preparedness drill.

The Arizona Geological Survey and Arizona Division of Emergency Management are again asking state and local authorities, K-12 schools, and health agencies and organizations to participate in the Great Arizona ShakeOut scheduled for 10:17 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2013. This year our goal is to engage more than 120,000 people in the two-minute *Drop, Cover, and Hold On* drill. With over 13,300 already enrolled, we are off to a smashing start.

In 2012, we partnered with county emergency managers, K-12 schools, and the American Red Cross, among others. This year we are casting a wider net and inviting state and county health departments, county educational service agencies, Arizona League of Cities and Towns, and all State agencies to join us in ShakeOut – see the "*What can I do to help?*" section below.

While communities in Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai and Yuma Counties - and to a lesser extent Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties - are at greatest risk from earthquakes, no Arizona community is completely immune from the ground shaking and damage that accompanies moderate to large magnitude earthquakes. In 2012, the Arizona Broadband Seismic Network recorded more than 60 earthquakes statewide; most went unfelt. But earthquake faults in Arizona, surrounding states and Mexico are capable of damaging earthquakes up to magnitude 7.5.

The Arizona ShakeOut "*Drop, Cover, and Hold On*" drill is a simple two-minute drill with the potential to save lives and minimize injuries from earthquakes.

Drop, Cover, and Hold On involves:

- **Drop** to the ground;
- **Take Cover** under a sturdy table or desk and protect your head and neck;
- **Hold On** until the shaking stops.

What can I do to help?

- Link to the Arizona ShakeOut web page. (www.shakeout.org/arizona/); Sign your office up to participate – and let others know you are participating;
- Share this note with your school districts and individual schools and encourage them to participate;
- Display some of the Arizona Shakeout materials in your office and web site;

The Great Arizona Shakeout is our collective opportunity to practice what to do before an earthquake occurs. This two-minute drill can minimize injuries and save lives in the event of an earthquake. ShakeOut is free and open to the public. **To participate**, go to <http://www.shakeout.org/arizona/register/index.php> and pledge your organization's participation in the drill. Once registered, you will receive information on how to plan your drill and how to engage your community. We will stay in touch as the event draws closer. In the meantime, if you have ideas on audiences we should be reaching out to, please let us know.

Sincerely, Michael Conway and Darlene Trammell



Apps, Opportunities and Resources provided by:
Cathy L. Davis, Arizona Geographic Alliance, ASU
www.alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/

Apps Top 6 iPad apps for Geography

<http://ictevangelist.com/top-6-ipad-apps-for-geography/>

Quakes * National Geographic HD * World Customs & Cultures * 205 National anthems, maps, flags * Google Earth * Globe for iPads

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Apps Free download <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/zaner-bloser-handwriting-manuscript/id419352555> and <https://apple.com/us/app/zaner-bloser-handwriting-cursive/id426939778> Features: Video animations to show the correct formation of all letters and numbers; unrestricted choice of any letter or number at any time; choice of shaded letters and numbers for tracing or blank guidelines for practice; “hint” button for instructional support; built-in reward to celebrate you’re young writer’s success and motivate him/her to improve.

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest <http://www.zaner-bloser.com/national-handwriting-contest>

The contest is over for 2013—but you can begin organizing for the 2014 contest. Winning students, their teachers, and their schools are eligible for more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Now in its 22nd year, the National Handwriting Contest is an annual event that Zaner-Bloser sponsors to promote legible handwriting. The contest is free to enter and open to all students in Grade 1-8. The contest includes a Special Needs category, the Nicholas Maxim Award. Students can win lots of great prizes, including cash and trophies. Zaner-Bloser estimates that over 4 million students have participated in the contest over its 22 year history. Also found at this site is *Spelling Connections*, online spelling games for grades 1-8.

<http://www.zaner-bloser.com/spelling-connections-online-games>

Spark 101 is a new online resource featuring interactive videos made by industry professionals on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) topics. Teachers can use these brief (about 10 minutes long) videos to engage students in solving real-world problems during one or two class periods. The content is directly connected to national curriculum from the College Board's Advanced Placement, the National Academy Foundation, and Project Lead the Way, making it easy for teachers to integrate the videos in their classrooms. The videos have a three-segment format, with pauses for student dialogue.

While the website is free to all teachers nationwide, some regions are using Spark 101 locally to serve targeted student populations. E-mail Spark101@114th.org for information on upcoming educator or industry training webinars. www.spark101.org

Additional Resources:

OceanGLOBE—<http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/curricula.html>

WMO Weather & Climate Extremes—<http://wmo.asu.edu>

World Data Center—http://sedac.ciesin.org/wdc/map_gallery.jsp

More Resources from the Arizona Geographic Alliance:

14 Map Sites for Static, Interactive, on-line maps on multiple subjects at various grade levels.

[Flying Over America](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=KcuDdPo0WZk

This is a fun YouTube video which depicts an old bi-wing aircraft flying over parts of North America. Several landmarks are shown, some easy, some more difficult. I could imagine this being used as a fun way to start a Geography day for upper elementary or middle school students.

[21 Map Creation Tools for Students and Teachers](#)

[http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2012/06/21-map-creation-tools-for-students-](http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2012/06/21-map-creation-tools-for-students-and.html#.UPsPj44u1gY)

[and.html#.UPsPj44u1gY](http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2012/06/21-map-creation-tools-for-students-and.html#.UPsPj44u1gY) Don't miss looking at this site! What a rich mapping vein we include in this month's "Finds" thanks to Jan H of the M.A.G.E. Steering Committee. Over 20 links to map making sites and all free! The overall site is Richard Byrne's "Free Technology for Teachers" and has a lot to offer in addition to the 21 map suggestions.

[Civil War Maps \(from fold3\)](#)

http://go.fold3.com/civilwar_maps/ A map of the SE USA with clickable balloons where the major battles took place. Click on the balloon to gain access to text, more maps and photographs. If you open a free account you can annotate, comment, create a gallery, download and do other things to the maps and images.

[Civil War Annotated Map \(History Kids\)](#)

<http://www.thehistorykids.net/civ/newciv.swf> This annotated, interactive map of the SE USA shows the major battles. Click on the spots and you get images and a description of each battle.

[Civil War Battle Maps App for iPad \(free from the Civil War Trust\)](#)

<http://www.civilwar.org/battleapps/> Download interactive battle maps for free which run on Adroids, iPads, iPhones. The battles include: Antietam, 2nd Manassas, Petersburg, Bull Run, Devil's Den & Little Round Top, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Malvern Hill, and Cedar Creek. Full service will use your GPS to locate you on the battlefield.

[Hill Maps](#)

<http://www.hillmap.com/> This free site allows you to choose a location and then reveals side by side maps. The two map types are chosen from a pull down menu. Excellent for showing kids how a place looks on a map and a satellite image or other type of image. This is a very simple and easy to use site. Some analysis is possible using the tope of the screen pull down menus.

[Big Think \(one example from their site\)](#)

<http://bigthink.com/strange-maps/131-us-states-renamed-for-countries-with-similar-gdps>

Big Think is not a Geography site, but there is a section on "Strange Maps". This specific page has a map which shows US states which have been renamed for countries with similar GDPs. It is worth looking at if you have not seen it before.

[Bad Map vs Good Map \(curious cartographer\)](#)

<http://katrinalaygo.blogspot.com/2010/01/what-makes-good-and-bad-map.html> Two maps of the same thing, one bad and one good, with text explanations.

[Bad Map Examples](#) google.com

Looking for examples of bad maps to use with your students? Did you know you can Google "map bad example" and Google will generate a page of these for you, and almost always there will be a brief explanation about why the map is bad.

More map links on page 17

[Interactive Population Map \(from US Census 2010\)](#)

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>

This is not your standard Census Bureau page and it is not 100% ready yet, but it is a site with a slight twist. . Many of the 2010 Census Demographic Profiles are ready for viewing. These profiles provide more subject detail than the recently released 2010 Census redistricting data files. These profiles provide details about race and Hispanic groups, age, sex and housing status. The profiles will be released on a state-by-state basis for each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Use this map to explore 2010 Census Demographic Profile data. Not all states are ready. Fred's note: be sure to read and follow the directions. Also, as of 11/13/12 the rendering is a little on the slow side. But you sure can "drill" down into the demographics of an area.

[Most Diverse US Neighborhoods \(thanks to Jim H in Bloomington\)](#)

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/housing/2012/11/where-find-diversity-america/3892/>

The election of 2012 gave us a look at how the USA electorate has been changing, but the data and map on this site allows you to see what the most diverse neighborhoods look like.

[Invisible Borders That Define American Culture](#)

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2012/04/invisible-borders-define-american-culture/1839/> This site displays maps which show how USA is connected via "invisible borders".

This is an out of the box discussion which uses Geography and mapping mashups to illustrate their findings.

[Overlapmaps](#)

<http://overlapmaps.com/> Select one map to "overlay" onto another map to compare a variety of parameters. This is a very useful site for students to gain perspective on the sizes and features of other places by comparing them to the USA or Minnesota (or many other places). Thanks to Jan H of Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education who referred to this site in her GeoFest2012 presentation.

[Earth Lights \(from Yahoo\)](#)

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/satellite-images-of-earth-at-night-slideshow/nasa-satellite-photo-1830293153.html> Stunning new views of the earth at night. Now the Bakken oil field shows up as one of the major illumination points west of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Roll the cursor over the earth and then click on the arrows which show. An advertisement or two will pop up. Thanks to Jim H in Bloomington for the heads up.

Websites, Newsletters, etc.

Arizona Department of Education—www.azed.gov

Arizona Educational Foundation—www.azedfoundation.org

The Center for the Future of Arizona *The Quarterly*—www.thearizonawewant.org

Arizona STEM Network/Science Foundation Arizona—sfaz.org

Expect More Arizona—www.expectmorearizona.org

Graham County Health Department *Voices of the Community* newsletters can be found at:

http://www.graham.az.gov/Graham_CMS/Health.aspx?id=648