



February 2010

Dear GEMS Associates:

As you work to meet the challenges you face every day, GEMS offers resources and ideas to assist you in your endeavors. Please know we always want to hear how we can best support you! The GEMS Network and product lines continue to evolve, serving educators and students in new and more effective ways.

We have lots of news and information to share in order to support you in your vital roles as GEMS Associates. Highlights:

## **1. Events at the Philadelphia National Science Teachers Association Conference:**

### **● GEMS Network Reception**

**Friday, March 19 3:30-5 PM**

**open free of charge to all interested educators**

**Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel; Liberty Ballroom C**

**Please join us!** Bring your colleagues and friends!! Meet other Associates from around the country. Both those currently involved with the GEMS program and those who want to know more about the opportunities afforded by the program are welcome. Visit tables hosted by a GEMS Site or Center near you.

**Presenters invited!!** I'd like to extend a special invitation to those of you planning to attend the GEMS Network Reception to demonstrate an activity from one of your favorite guides or display a program or project involving your role as an Associate. I'm happy to write a special letter of invitation for you to present, if that assists you in attending the conference. Please contact Laura Tucker (phone: 360/379-5235 or email: [ltucker@berkeley.edu](mailto:ltucker@berkeley.edu)).

We will also have samples of GEMS curriculum including *GEMS Curriculum Sequences*, *AfterSchool KidzScience*, and *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading*<sup>®</sup>. You will also have a chance to win a kit from Carolina Curriculum plus other goodies!

● **GEMS Exhibitor workshops sponsored by Carolina Biological**

**Thursday, March 18 11:30AM-1:00PM**  
**open free of charge to all interested educators**  
**Convention Center, Room 201B**

*"Setting the Standard for PreK Science"*

featuring *Eggs Eggs Everywhere*

Enjoy an engaging exemplar from our Early Childhood science series. This unit introduces young children to the wonders of eggs of all kinds, developing age-appropriate concepts in biology and life science. Activities combine literature, math, role-playing, drama, and art, and introduce sorting, classifying, and graphing.

**Friday, March 19 10-11:30AM**  
**open free of charge to all interested educators**  
**Convention Center, Room 201B**

*"Discover the Solar System and Beyond for Grades 3-8"*

Join us for an exploration of the GEMS Space Science Sequences, developed in partnership with NASA and UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science. The sequences combine coherent space science content with systematic assessment and innovative learning technologies. You'll see first-hand how students use models, hands-on activities, and informational readings to explore phenomena such as moon phases and eclipses, gravity, the solar system and beyond.

**The GEMS Space Science Sequence for Grades 3-5 and GEMS Space Science Sequence for Grades 6-8:**

- Wednesday, March 17, 1:00 PM - 5 PM
- 2 Concurrent sessions (one for Grades 3-5; one for Grades 6-8)
- For supervisors, curriculum administrators, and lead science teachers, by application only
- For details and to register, please visit <http://lhsgems.org/NSTAPhila.html>

● ***Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* at NSTA:**

To sign up for any of the sessions listed below please contact Terry Cort at 510 643-0672 or by email at [tcort@berkeley.edu](mailto:tcort@berkeley.edu)

March 18, 2010, 8:30 – 10 AM Workshop: **Innovative Science and Literacy Integration: *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading*.**

Immerse yourself in the *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* **Variation and Adaptation** unit by investigating adaptations that enable a species to survive in its habitat. See how firsthand inquiry, content-rich science books, scientific discourse and writing activities integrate to provide rich and varied opportunities to learn important science concepts and vocabulary. Attendees receive free samples of student books.

March 18, 2010, 10:30 AM – 12 PM, Workshop: **Innovative Science and Literacy Integration: *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading*.**

Immerse yourself in the *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* **Shoreline Science** unit by investigating the properties of earth materials! See how firsthand inquiry, content-rich science books, scientific discourse and writing activities integrate to provide rich and varied opportunities to learn important science concepts and vocabulary. Attendees receive free samples of student books.

March 18, 2010, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Workshop: **Innovative Science and Literacy Integration: *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading*.**

Immerse yourself in the *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* **Chemical Changes** unit by investigating chemical reactions and the particulate nature of matter! See how firsthand inquiry, content-rich science books, scientific discourse and writing activities are integrated to provide rich and varied opportunities to learn important earth and life science concepts and vocabulary. Attendees receive free samples of student books.

March 18, 2010, 3:30 – 5 PM, Workshop, **Enhance Reading Skills in the Science Classroom: *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading*.**

Discover how engaging new **student books for grades 2-6** support reading comprehension and science knowledge simultaneously. Each book features a corresponding Strategy Guide that introduces approaches for using powerful instructional strategies that will help students read science texts with greater understanding and learn new vocabulary. Attendees receive free samples of student books.

## **2. Spring and Summer 2010 GEMS Associates, Leaders, and *AfterSchool KidzScience* Workshops at LHS**

If you'd like to visit us in Berkeley this summer, we have a full range of workshop activities planned.

- ***AfterSchool KidzScience* Workshop: April 26 & 27, 2010.**
- **GEMS Associate's Workshop: June 23-25, 2010.**
- **GEMS Leader's Workshop: June 22 & 22, 2010.**

Details and registration information are on-line at <http://lhsgems.org/gemsworkshops.html>

## **3. An update on new products:**

- **Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading<sup>®</sup>**

By fall 2010 we will have released the full range of products for grades 2 through 5 from the *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* program. The Carnegie Corporation of New York recently acknowledged the program in the Institute for Advanced Study Report:

“Cultivating science skills within literacy development can be a powerful way to build reading students’ skills and learn science content at the same time. Programs that are pioneering this approach include the *Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading* program at the University of California-Berkeley.”

Please visit the Delta Education booth at the NSTA National show to see the products, or join us at one of the workshops noted earlier in this letter.

For more details on the program visit <http://seedsofscience.org> or for details on pricing and purchasing the program visit <http://delta-edu.com/seeds/>

## ● **GEMS Curriculum Sequences**

GEMS is very pleased to have both the **GEMS Space Science Sequence for Grades 3–5** and **GEMS Space Science Sequence for Grades 6–8** completed and available for purchase. GEMS Curriculum Sequences are published and distributed by Carolina Curriculum.

In addition to the space science units, we are making progress on the newest sequence, the **GEMS Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 3–5**, and have now begun work on a companion product, the **GEMS Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 6–8**. We plan to have the Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 3–5 available late this fall. The Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 6–8 is just beginning development and we will announce the release schedule for that at a later date.

The GEMS Ocean Sciences Sequence for Grades 3–5 includes three units:

- What Kind of Place is The Ocean?
- What is Life Like in The Ocean?
- How Are Humans and The Ocean Connected?

The oceans provide a fascinating context for studying a range of important standards-based science concepts. Through interactive classroom activities, engaging video resources, and high-interest supplemental readings these units provide a unique opportunity to engage students in science.

If you've never seen the sequences, please visit **Carolina Curriculum** at the NSTA National Conference in Philadelphia, or you can read more at <http://lhsgems.org/CurriculumSequences.htm>

We encourage you to view the online video overview on that page.

## ● **AfterSchool KidzScience**

We're delighted to be partnering with the Developmental Studies Center (DSC) of Oakland, California, a nationally respected publisher of after school materials, to bring you AfterSchool KidzScience (ASKS) the new line of science kits for "out-of-school" users.

Based on tried-and-true LHS curricula, these "little GEMS" are adapted for use in afterschool programs, Girls and Boys Clubs, Scouts,

recreation and camp programs, or any out-of-school programs. The first four units focus on physical science, and are available now:

- *Oobleck*
- *Bubbles*
- *Magnets*
- *Falling and Flying*

Additional ASKS units are in development. We invite you to sample these units through a series of videos that accompany the units and provide an introduction to the activities. You can view the videos at

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0rQe\\_yRKg0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0rQe_yRKg0)

To learn more and for details on purchasing the units, please visit the DSC web site at

<http://www.devstu.org/page/afterschool-kidzscience™>

#### **4. News from Carolina Curriculum**

Kristen Mayfield, at Carolina Curriculum, has asked us to include the following message to our Associates who would like to or who already use GEMS Kits and GEMS Curriculum Sequences:

Dear GEMS Associates,

Greetings from Carolina Curriculum. For over 80 years Carolina Biological has been serving science educators with quality products and customer-first service. For over two decades Carolina has also been a leader in inquiry-based science and math curriculum. Our association with Lawrence Hall of Science and the GEMS program allows us to work with GEMS Associates, Sites, and Centers as a partner in providing a quality, tested, and proven inquiry-based program. As exclusive publisher of GEMS Curriculum Sequences and GEMS Kits, we are excited by the opportunity to work with you on implementing these programs.

I look forward to meeting and working with the GEMS family, and invite you to contact me with suggestions or questions as to how we can

work together on the most effective methods for teaching science and math. Please call me to discuss how I can assist you with any of the GEMS programs from Carolina.

Sincerely,

Kristen Mayfield, Marketing Manager, Supplemental Curriculum, Carolina Curriculum  
800-227-1150, ext. 6242, or at [kristen.mayfield@carolina.com](mailto:kristen.mayfield@carolina.com)  
or visit <http://www.carolinacurriculum.com/GEMS>

## **5. GEMS Correlations on the Web**

Just a reminder that we have correlations of the GEMS series to many state's science standards including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana (K-4), Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Texas, and Utah. We are also soliciting any correlations you have to your state's science standards. If you've been working on this, we'd love to hear from you. If you subscribe to the GNN online, you'll always know what standards we're currently correlating!

We also have a Scope and Sequence of GEMS guides for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire and New York. Check the web page <http://www.lhsgems.org/Standards.html>

Carolina Curriculum has a correlation tool on their web page for all 50 states that you may find useful. Key words were used in a computer search to find the pages in GEMS guides that correspond to the standards in each state, but computers can't be as thorough as humans, so we suggest you use a modicum of scrutiny in your assessment of the accuracy of each correlation.

## **6. Hints on Obtaining Professional Development Funds**

GEMS qualifies for funding under the "No Child Left Behind" provisions for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I and Title II). For additional information about these federal funds, please contact the Math/Science specialist in your district, Federal Grants Office at your district or county, or your State Department of Education. The California Science Teachers Association has prepared a particularly helpful page with information and templates to help you plan professional development in alignment with NCLB funding. [http://www.cascience.org/csta/leg\\_funding.asp](http://www.cascience.org/csta/leg_funding.asp)

## **7. Sign up for the GEMS Network News Online.**

Please visit <http://lhsgems.org/GNNonline.html> and sign up to receive GNN online. The electronic version will provide important news for all GEMS users. Sign up now!!

Once again, we want to express our lasting appreciation to each of you for your efforts to bring exciting and effective inquiry-based science and mathematics to all students. As the GEMS Network grows, there will be many opportunities for all of us to learn and grow together.

Your suggestions are always welcome, so please stay in touch! Hope to see you soon!

Laura Tucker  
GEMS Network and Professional Development Coordinator