



# Keeping Current With Curriculum

Summer 2009

Volume 1 Issue 4

## LAL

The National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) is working diligently to establish **October 20, 2009** as **National Day on Writing**. The goal of NCTE is "to draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing we engage in and help make writers from all walks of life aware of their craft." Teachers are encouraged to create their own "hall" in the National Gallery of Writing. For more information, go to: [www.ncte.org/action/dayonwriting](http://www.ncte.org/action/dayonwriting).



## MATH

Activity packets have been posted by the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) for elementary, middle school and high school. Each packet is approximately 35 pages and a compilation of activities from NCTM publications. To download your free packets, go to: [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org).



## SCIENCE

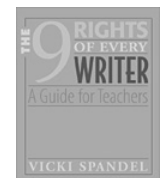
**Coming soon!** The Science Curriculum Committee has "unearthed" a missing piece to our science curriculum. Through our process of review and revision, and deep discussions, the committee strongly advised that our curriculum includes the design of a whole year of earth science in 6th grade. Texts were ordered and units are being drafted.



## Professional Reading: *The 9 Rights of Every Writer*

By: Vicki Spandel

This book for K-12 teachers is a collection of 9 published authors' discussions of what makes writing work. "Powerful" lessons are offered to help writers of all levels. Available in the "Professional Books" section of all school libraries.



*"Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions."*

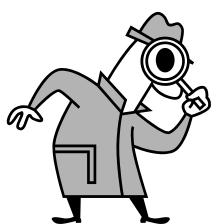
~Author Unknown



**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Mark your calendar... and plan book! **Constitution Day** (formerly known as Citizenship Day) is **September 17**. This federal observance is declared to be a day to recognize the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. In 2004, the law that set the holiday was created with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd. Besides renaming the day, this act also mandates that all "publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the constitution on this day". There are two very informative websites:

- ⇒ [www.constitutionday.cc](http://www.constitutionday.cc) has good resources and educational links.
- ⇒ [www.k12.com/events/constituion\\_day\\_lessons](http://www.k12.com/events/constituion_day_lessons) has *wonderful* online lessons and printable materials for *all* grade levels.

## FOR ALL:



No matter the content area, the lesson, or the plan, teachers are always looking for additional resources. **Federal Resources for Educational Excellence** is a website that offers free resources in all content areas. The site makes available animations, primary documents, photos and videos. Try this link and find that great resource that just might make it all "click": [www.free.ed.gov](http://www.free.ed.gov).



**Cliffside Park  
Public Schools**

Office of  
Curriculum &  
Instruction

201.945.9340  
dmartinotti@cliffsidepark.edu

**NJDOE**

*Your source for  
standards  
clarifications...*

## 2009 Standards Revision Project:



The New Jersey Department of Education has proposed the adoption phases for the Core Curriculum content Standards:

- ⇒ **Phase I - June, 2009:** Visual & Performing Arts, Comprehensive Health & Physical Education, Science, World Languages, Technology, 21st Century Life & Career Skills, Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards
- ⇒ **Phase II - September, 2009:** Social Studies
- ⇒ **Phase III - November, 2009:** Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics

The NJDOE reports that the revised standards will be delivered in electronic format *only* and posted on the web site with an interactive PD platform. Also, the standards will be linked to classroom applications and other support materials including curriculum exemplars.

*Thank You*



A big **“Thank You”** to all of our faculty who have given their time, energy and expertise in serving on our many curriculum committees! It has been a very busy year of forming new committees, regrouping with others and beginning the arduous task of writing. Though our work can be difficult at times, we all agree it is necessary to be sure our students are receiving the best education Cliffside Park has to offer. I wish all of our committee members and all staff a healthy and restful summer! If you come across anything of interest for our curriculum during the summer, feel free to drop me a message!

Enjoy!

*Dana*