

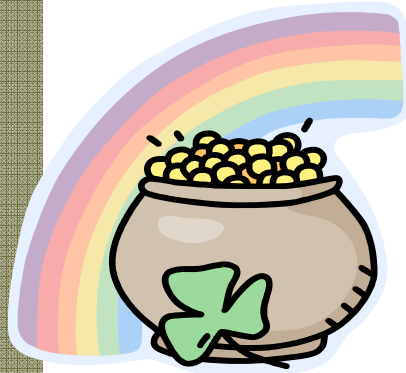


DPI Social Studies Update

March 20, 2007

Items of Interest in this Update:

- Teaching personal financial literacy.
- Get podcasts on the C-SPAN in the Classroom website.
- The NC Bar Association announces the Justice Teaching Institute.



A Newsletter from the DPI Secondary Social Studies Consultants:

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Greetings from the DPI High School Social Studies Staff

Spring break is just around the corner for many of you. We know you have more than earned the time off, and we hope you have a wonderful and relaxing break.

We (Judy and Kelli) enjoyed seeing many of you at the state social studies conference last month and would like to thank everyone who attended one of our sessions. As always, we were impressed with all the wonderful and innovative things going on in the social studies classrooms across the state. North Carolina is fortunate to have so many wonderful teachers!

French and Indian War Workshop in Statesville

On Friday, March 9th thirty K-12 social studies teachers attended a DPI sponsored workshop on the French and Indian War. They learned about some of the major themes of the war and then visited the Fort Dobbs Historic Site in Statesville, NC. At the fort site they interacted with historical interpreters and learned a little more about North Carolina's role in the "war that made America." For more information about Fort Dobbs, including interactive field trip opportunities visit their website at <http://www.fortdobbs.org/> or email Beth Hill at bhill@fortdobbs.org.

For additional announcements and updates related to social studies bookmark this site:

<http://community.learnnc.org/dpi/socialstudies/>



Teachers spent the morning learning about the war from Jim Wetzler, a national presenter with the French and Indian War 250 organization.



In the afternoon teachers learned to march in formation from Matthew Keagle, an historic interpreter at Fort Dobbs.

“History Happens Here” Campaign Kicks Off



“History Happens Here” is the 2007 statewide theme of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Throughout the year, more than 500 events are scheduled at museums and historic sites across the state. “North Carolina is often in the forefront of history,” observes Cultural Resources Secretary Lisbeth Evans, “from the establishment of the Carolina colonial capital at Tryon Palace to the epic Battle of Bentonville or the creation of the first state symphony or art collection, it happened here.”

To find out more about the events planned in connection with the “History Happens Here” statewide campaign, visit the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources’ website at http://www.ncculture.com/HistoryHappens/HHH_home.asp.

21st Century Skills Focus: Learning and Thinking Skills

It is important for students to learn the necessary academic content as they progress through school; however, it is as equally important for them to acquire skills that will enable them to continue to learn throughout their life. As part of the 21st Century Skills Partnership, the NC Board of Education is promoting the teaching of these skills along with the core subjects. Learning and thinking skills are comprised of:

- Critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
- Communication skills
- Creativity and innovation skills
- Collaboration skills
- Contextual learning skills
- Information and media literacy skills

As you design engaging lessons for your students, be sure to continue to include opportunities for them to refine and enhance these skills and promote the life long learning that is so important for success throughout their lives.

Personal Financial Literacy

In 2005, the General Assembly passed a law requiring that personal financial literacy be taught as part of the high school curriculum. DPI staff, members of the General Assembly, and other stakeholders have been in communication in an effort to determine where the personal financial literacy content can best be infused into the high school curriculum. Although a final decision has not been reached, we encourage social studies teachers to make use of the Personal Financial Literacy document and incorporate activities in your lesson plans where applicable. The document can be accessed at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/socialstudies/secondary/personalfinancialliteracy/>.



Featured Website: [C-SPAN Classroom](#)

The C-SPAN classroom website offers free resources for teaching civics and government. There are video clips and podcasts for classroom use. The clips are divided in to various categories and there is a searchable database if you are looking a particular topic. There are also discussion questions and background information for each of the clips. To use the resources you must register. Registration is free and allows teachers access to all of the databases, lesson plans, and their toll free “teaching with C-SPAN” hotline. The website is an excellent way for teachers to use current events to teach content in Civics.



*Example is not the main thing
in influencing others, it is the
only thing.*

- Albert Schweitzer

Professional Development Opportunities

Turkey: A Bridge between Two Worlds

Date: Saturday, April 14, 2007

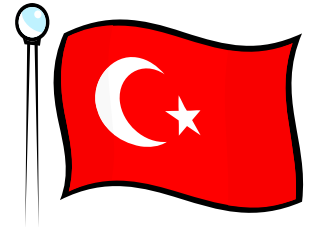
Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Location: Exploris - 201 E. Hargett St. - Raleigh, NC 27601

Join Exploris, International Affairs Council (IAC) and Turkish Cultural Foundation for a workshop for 6th, 7th and 9th grade teachers interested in exploring Turkey's role as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East. This workshop will include discussions on the cultures, religions and current events surrounding this country that lies between the East and West.

Master teachers will provide examples and resources for translating this knowledge into classroom lessons and discussion periods will be integrated into each session. Participants will receive certificates for 8 contact hours that can be submitted to their local school systems for CEU credit. This workshop fits into the curricula for 6th grade (Europe), 7th grade (Asia) and 9th grade (World History).

For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.iacnc.org/news.aspx>.



NC Bar Association Justice Teaching Institute

Date: Sunday, October 14, 2007 - Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Location: North Carolina Bar Center in Cary

Twenty outstanding North Carolina public high school educators will be invited to attend the Justice Teaching Institute ("JTI"), an intensive 2-1/2 day program. JTI will increase teachers' understanding of the court system and judicial process. It will also give teachers the tools they need to enable their students to better understand the judicial process. Program instructors will include some of the state's most eminent legal professionals. Teachers successfully completing the program will be installed as JTI Fellows. JTI will also offer to other interested North Carolina public high school teachers an Open Session on Monday, October 15 involving presentations by and discussions with various lawyers, judges, court personnel, and policy makers.

For more information about JTI, and an application to become a JTI Fellow, visit their website: <http://www.ncbar.org/public/lis/index.aspx>

The North Carolina Bar Association Foundation is sponsoring and funding the JTI. Those selected to participate as JTI Fellows will have their meal, hotel, travel arrangements and substitute teacher cost will be paid by the Bar Association. CEU credit is also available to participating fellows.

Applications must be returned postmarked on or before April 27, 2007.

Applicants will be notified of their selection status no later than mid-May 2007.

"The only things worth learning are the things you learn after you know it all."
- Harry Truman



Consultant's Corner



"On the road" again has been our theme this month! From the mountains to the coast, Judy and Kelli have been traveling all over the state visiting schools, presenting at workshops and participating in trainings. The highlight of our journeys has been the opportunity to talk with many of you and learn about the great things going on in your districts. North Carolina truly has the best teachers in the country!

Mark Your Calendar

Dates of Interest:

March 26-28: [Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap](#) Conference in Greensboro