



Bi-weekly Newsletter

March 8, 2006

It's Allergy Season

With the warming of the weather, plants are beginning to bloom and you know what that means – pollen! Spring is a good time to study pollination, allergic reactions, atmospheric conditions etc... Check out these links:

<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/hiddenworlds/>

Hidden World

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/Lessons.cfm?DocID=48>

Allergy Chronicles

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/allergies/allergy.html>

All about Allergies

<http://www.cci.ca.gov/Reference/Pollen/pollen.htm>

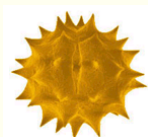
Pollen Images

<http://www.pollen.com/Pollen.com.asp>

Allergy Forecasts

<http://www.pollen.com/Pollen.com.asp>

Pollen Detective



Science Olympiad

On Saturday March 18th the regional Science Olympiad competition will be held on the campus of UNCW.

Bottles will fly, eggs will drop, bridges will collapse and everyone will have a great time experiencing science. Even if you aren't participating stop by and enjoy the competition!



Mad as a March Hare

Have you ever wondered what this expression means? Perhaps you recall the crazy tea party scene in Alice in Wonderland with the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. These characters exhibit behaviors associated with neurological conditions that hat-makers often suffered from due to mercury poisoning: slurred speech, tremors, irritability, shyness, depression and other neurological symptoms. In the 1800s mercuric nitrate was used to shape wool felt hats. Chronic exposure to it in poorly ventilated workrooms often led to the development of "mad hatters". Environmental mercury is an important ecological health issue. Expose your students to this toxic issue:

<http://science-education.nih.gov/supplements/nih2/chemicals/guide/lesson5-1.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/bnsdocs/merccomm/merccomm.pdf>

<http://www.mercuryinschools.uwex.edu/curriculum/toc.htm>

<http://www.pbs.org/now/science/mercuryinfish.html>



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

During the month of March classrooms around the world celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Many of his books can be integrated into science lessons. Follow an underground river in McElligot's Pool. Learn about biological cycles and seasons in Thidwick, the Big-Hearted Moose. Investigate the microscopic world in Horton Hears a Who. Discuss hybrid offspring with Horton Hatches the Egg. And last, but not least, don't forget to involve your students in a study of environmental issues with The Lorax. Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss and thanks for all the great stories!