

Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake  
“Learning at the Lake”  
Newsletter - Summer 2010

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Apply NOW!!!! (Less than 2 weeks left!)

What: *Preparing Women for Mathematical Modeling in Montana*

When: June 15 – 19, 9 am – 4 pm in Helena Montana

Where: Front Street Learning Center in the mornings followed by lunch; ExplorationWorks in the afternoons  
Saturday, June 19, at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

About the Program: The five-day summer phase of the project

- Mornings: look at real world problems that can be modeled using mathematics and Excel. Local professional women will address these topics.
- Afternoons: build and program robots. We will have a special speaker who is an MIT graduate student in engineering and visiting EW through their NASA grant.
- Saturday at Canyon Ferry Lake: hands-on activities with professionals from the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Overnight Accommodations: Participants make arrangements with Helena area family, relatives or friends.

How to Apply: Application materials at the Preparing Women for Mathematical Modeling in Montana link at [www.montanalearning.org](http://www.montanalearning.org). Each application must be accompanied by a letter of support from a high school mathematics teacher, a one-page essay indicating why you wish to participate, and a signed parental form. This program is FREE and has a limit of 24 participants - only 16 such MAA Tensor funded programs in US.

Eligibility Requirements: Young women must have successfully completed Algebra I or Math 1 by June 2010 and be entering 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall.

For additional information: Contact Marie Vanisko at [mvanisko@carroll.edu](mailto:mvanisko@carroll.edu) or 406-422-5842 or Richard Seitz at Helena High at [rseitz@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:rseitz@helena.k12.mt.us) or 406-443-5181

Kids Camps (Registration deadline July 1)

Please read below and visit the Montana Learning Center website at: [www.montanalearning.org](http://www.montanalearning.org)

Contact Carol Bock at the Montana Learning Center the following:

Email: [cbock@montanalearning.org](mailto:cbock@montanalearning.org); Phone: (406) 475-3638; Fax: (406) 475-3871

CAMP DISCOVERY

What: A four day science camp for primary students

Who: Students entering grades K-3

When: July 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Cost: \$190 per camper

Instructor: Chris Ralph, Helena Public Schools

This is a day camp in which students will be shuttled to and from Helena each day. Students will use their five senses to discover the natural world around them. Swimming, science experiments, crafts and story time will be utilized to help students as they construct an understanding of how things interact in our world.

### **YOUNG NATURALIST'S**

What: A four day, three overnight math and science camp

Who: Students entering grades 4-7

When: July 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 (entering grades 4-5)

July 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (entering grades 6-7)

Cost: \$290 per camper per week (includes all meals, snacks, lodging, transportation and phone calls)

Instructor: Beth Thomas, Great Falls Public Schools

Young Naturalist's is a camp for students who seek knowledge about the world they live in. You will explore the various areas of science, especially earth and life science, as well as investigating various cycles here on our planet, discuss habitats, ecosystems and the delicate balance that exists is another objective - learn about constellations around a campfire, swimming and hiking in the mountains around Canyon Ferry! This camp is a great way to make life long friends and learn cool applications of science and math while not even knowing it!

### **INNOVATIONS 1**

What: A week long camp in which math and science will be explored in the outdoors.

Who: Students entering grades 8-10

When: July 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$490 per camper per week (includes all meals, snacks, lodging, transportation and phone calls)

Instructor: Jody Brown, Augusta Public Schools

The purpose of this camp is to connect the great outdoors with the math and science that are not only essential for survival, but will also help preserve our wilderness. A strong base in math and science is not required to enjoy this camp. Students that want to have fun in the outdoors while being educated on helpful tools to be used in outdoor recreation are encouraged to attend. You will backpack, float the Missouri River, learn and apply basic navigation and survival skills to your experiences.

### **INNOVATIONS 2**

What: A week long camp in which math and science will be explored in the outdoors.

Who: Students entering grades 8-10

When: July 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

Cost: \$490 per camper per week (includes all meals, snacks, lodging, transportation and phone calls)

Instructor: Jody Brown, Augusta Public Schools

During this week long camp students will engage in activities such as calculating the buoyant force of a t and test your hypothesis on Canyon Ferry Lake. Topics such as work and energy will be discussed to explain how simple machines work, and then those ideas will be applied. Students will use problem solving strategies to design egg drop capsules, and to see who can build the strongest popsicle stick bridge. We will discuss optics and how we have used our ability to bend light to help us in a wide variety of ways. The week includes a full day hike in the mountains surrounding Canyon Ferry. You will also collect, interpret data, and make conclusions about the water quality of two nearby tributaries to the Missouri River. During free time you will be able to have access to a wide variety of equipment including games, canoes, tennis courts, computers, and the beach.

***Kids camp scholarships - a nice way to honor a family member and promote math and science fun experiences!***

### **MSTA and MCTM Professional Development Academies**

July 12-15, 2010 at Montana Learning Center, Canyon Ferry, MT

Monday - Wednesday 8a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday 8a.m. until noon

- **MSTA Science Inquiry Professional Development Academy**

Do you want an opportunity to improve your science lessons and approach to teaching science? Are you seeking a chance to collaborate with other science teachers in the state? This science academy is designed for you to walk away with multiple lesson ideas, tools and skills to seamlessly integrate inquiry into your classroom and curriculum. Please visit [montanalearning.org](http://montanalearning.org) and click on the link for "Programs" and then "Summer

Opportunities for Teachers". This is a great opportunity for you and a math teacher from the same team and or school to exchange ideas and work together as the MCTM Professional Academy are the same dates July 12-15th.

- **MCTM 5-9 Implementing the Algebra Standard 5-9 Academy**

Join Grade 5 - 9 math education colleagues at the Montana Learning Center to participate in an in-depth workshop designed to enhance the teaching and learning of Algebra in your classroom. Participants will be engaged in an interactive workshop designed to teach algebra fundamentals via a problem solving approach. Making the Montana Algebra Standards come alive in your classroom will be the focus throughout the week. Participants will discover how to make Algebraic concepts explicit and how to make algebraic connections within mathematics.

Also note: MCTM K-6 PDA: Implementing the Algebra Standard K-6

July 19-22 in Billings, Montana; Monday-Wednesday 8a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday 8a.m. until noon

### **MCTM Math Coaches Retreat 2010: August 9-10 at Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake in Helena**

Are you a math coach? Do you ever wonder what your role should be or look like? Do you need support from others and want to start networking with other coaches around the state of Montana? If so, this retreat is for you. The retreat is from 8:00 AM Monday, August 9th through 4:00 PM Tuesday, August 10th, 2010.



### **Sacajawea Kids Enjoy MLC Overnight**

Seventy-seven Sacajawea (Bozeman) MS kids hit the ground running (May 26 & 27) during the instructional and fun two days at MLC. Fourteen chaperones helped Leanne Yenny, 7<sup>th</sup> grade math/science teacher, with the overnight adventure. Reservations have already been made to return May 2011. Visit MLC with your students - Contact Carol Bock for dates and costs. [[cbock@montanalearning.org](mailto:cbock@montanalearning.org) or (406) 475 - 3638]

### **New MLC Executive Director and Board Officers**

At the April 30, May 1 Board of Directors meeting, Glenn Allinger was named Executive Director for MLC beginning immediately. Glenn, Professor Emeritus from MSU-Bozeman, had previously served as Board Chair. He will supervise day-to-day activities while supported by the new Executive Committee: Marie Vanisko (Carroll College Professor Emeritus) - Chair; Melissa Romano & Mary Larsen (both Helena K-8 Instructional Coaches) - shared secretarial duties; Ke Norman (UM-Missoula) - Treasurer.



### Kitchen Renovations Receive Accolades

Kitchen/dining hall renovations have made a huge improvement. The kitchen now occupies two former bedroom areas. A wall removal has increased seating capacity. The front entry handicap ramp was installed this week and a mechanical door opener is on order. Special appreciation to Mel for overseeing the construction, installing a dining hall to garage door and transporting a commercial sink from Missoula - the latter two tasks saved MLC valuable dollars. Diamond Construction (Dean Bjerke - Helena) and Bjerke Architects (Susan Bjerke - Helena) managed the project as well as donating money and some construction materials. Many thanks to the Bjerkes for their past and continued support of MLC.

### New Board Members Take Over from Veterans

Welcome to the following new MLC Board members (April 30, May 1): Craig Beals (Billings Senior Science), Marco Ferro (MEA-AFT Public Policy Director), Irene Grimberg (MSU-Bozeman SMRC/Physics), Ke Norman (UM-Missoula Mathematical Sciences), Melissa Romano (Helena K-8 Math Instructional Coach), Marvin Weber (Courtview Justice Solutions - Sr. Analyst, Database Administration)

Retiring Board members received certificates and “hearty thanks” for their many years of service, most for at least 6 years: David Erickson (UM-Missoula Mathematics Education), Eric Feaver (MEA-AFT Board President), Liz Gundersen (Helena ExplorationWorks), Sue Harding (Kalispell MS Math), Rick Jones (Billings Senior HS Science), Jennie Luebeck (MSU-Bozeman Mathematical Sciences), Dick Seitz (Helena HS Mathemtaics).

### *Other News Notes*

#### - - Qwest Leadership Program Initiated

Funded by a Qwest Communications grant, the Math and Science Leadership Workshop for selected teachers will take place at MLC July 8 - 11. Under the direction of Dick Seitz, these “Ambassadors” will hone skills need to promote excellence in math and science to K-12 teaches and community members. For further information, contact Dick at [ottoseitz@hotmail.com](mailto:ottoseitz@hotmail.com),

#### - - Live-in Volunteer at MLC

Patrick McNelly, Billings Senior HS science teachers, will be a MLC live-in volunteer from mid-June to mid-August, assisting Mel and Carol with various facilities and administrative duties. He is currently arranging for environmentally sensitive disposal of aging on-site chemicals. THANKS, Patrick!

- - Investing in Innovations (i3) Grant Submitted

An i3 grant proposal was submitted May 12 to the US Department of Education with MLC as the principal applicant and fiscal agent. SILT (Science Inquiry Learning through Technology) requested about \$6,000,000 to expand and enhance the current successful SILC (Science and Inquiry Learning in Classrooms) Math and Science Partnership grant. SILT partners with MLC are: Helena, Bozeman, Hardin and Havre School Districts along with MSU-Bozeman. Apple Corporation funded some of the writing costs and served as a technology consultant. Awards will be announced in later summer or early fall.

- - Other Organizations Meeting at MLC

Other groups utilizing MLC facilities this summer include: Kennedy Family Seminar; Young Forrest Mentoring Program; A Forrest For Every Classroom; Math Instructional Coaches Retreat; Elderhostel; Montana Association of Presidential Awardees; MCTM Board of Directors; Sacajawea MS (Bozeman) students; Prickly Pear Co-Op; Montana Section of American Chemical Society. Get your organization on the MLC calendar by contacting Carol Bock at [cbock@montanalearning.org](mailto:cbock@montanalearning.org) or (406) 475 - 3638.

Check out our MLC website for more information and news: [www.montanalearning.org](http://www.montanalearning.org)