



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER
March 2008

Welcome to **EDUCATION CONNECTION**—Education Services' monthly e-Newsletter designed to help the educational community stay current regarding Mississippi Public Broadcasting's educational services, programming and information!

This newsletter is part of a broader overall education communications plan to increase the exposure and use of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Division. We hope you'll find this resource supports your own work to educate students and others in your community. Please feel free to copy or forward to teachers and others in your school or district.

If you would like to join our Education Services' distribution list and receive important updates for Educators, or if you wish to no longer receive these newsletters, please e-mail darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

Educational Technology

MPB extends invitation for Educators to join Teachers' Domain!

Teachers' Domain is an online library of free multimedia resources as well as professional development courses developed by WGBH in Boston that help teachers enhance their students' learning experiences and advance their own teaching skills using media from *NOVA*, *Frontline*, *American Experience*, and other public broadcast programming.

Registering with *Teachers' Domain* is free and allows you to:

- View as many resources as you like

- Save, sort, and share resources using My Folders and My Groups
- Download resources to your desktop
- See standards correlations for your state

To register, please visit <http://www.teachersdomain.org/>. *Teachers' Domain* PBS TeacherLine courses:

- Offer convenient and flexible access
- Are led by trained, certified facilitators
- Include real-world applications
- Tap media-rich resources from the Teachers' Domain collections
- Help PreK-12 teachers enhance instructional practice
- Help you find new innovative ways to integrate technology and media into your curriculum

For more information and/or a promotional code to obtain discounted enrollment fees, visit <http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/>, or contact Jill Boteler or Nancy Pearson at 601.432.6565.

“DE Streaming has really helped me to...”

Okay...Finish the sentence! Please tell us your stories on how you're using *Discovery Education Streaming* in the classroom. Has it helped you to integrate technology into your lessons? Has using *DE Streaming* improved your student's academic performance in your class? Whatever success you've had with MPB's impressive multimedia digital resource, we want to know about it. Please send your testimonials to Nancy Pearson at nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org.

Become a STAR on *DE Streaming*!

Your most valuable resources are your peers. With *Discovery Education Streaming*, you have access to the Discovery Educator Network (DEN), a growing community of educators who collaborate and share their experiences and best practices.

In addition to having access to *DE Streaming's* impressive library of more than 40,000 digital resources, Mississippi teachers can become a *Star Discovery Educator*! As part of the STAR program, educators will gain access to even more information than they thought possible. *Star Discovery Educators* can enter contests, submit blogs, attend special workshops and receive valuable classroom resources.

To obtain your school's passcode to start using [Discovery Education Streaming](#), contact Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Department at (800) 922-9698.

Visit [Discovery Educator Network](#) and become a STAR today!

Being a STAR has benefits!

Could you use some brand new equipment in your classroom, or maybe even a free webinar from *DE Streaming*? Well, listen up! Any Mississippi school that has the

most teachers to sign up as a *Star Discovery Educator* will be awarded an LCD Projector with an addition bulb. In addition, the top four schools will receive a free webinar from Discovery Education (a \$750 value). The contest ends **March 31, 2008**. Go to [Discovery Educator Network](#) to sign up. Winners will be notified by Discovery Education.

The MIVN Update

ESF presents "Taking ACTION on the ACT"
March 27, 2008
10:00-10:50 a.m. and 1:00-1:50 p.m.

This highly recommended workshop for high school Juniors and Seniors lights the path for student success in taking the ACT. During the sessions, presenters provide valuable guidance to students as they take the first steps toward preparing for college. Register your class or classes online now for this popular video workshop.

Go to www.mpbonline.org. Click on the 'MPB Event Registration' icon and fill in the information for your class.

NOTE: only one person per school should complete registration. Please call 601-432-6203 if you have questions or problems with the online registration.

Educational Outreach

***Reading Rainbow* Contest Deadline is March 7!**

Calling all young artists and writers! Mississippi Public Broadcasting invites youngsters to participate in the 14th annual ***Reading Rainbow* Young Writers and Illustrators Contest**. Children from kindergarten through third grade are encouraged to write and illustrate their own stories and submit them to MPB by the **March 7, 2008, deadline**.

Each child who enters receives a special Certificate of Achievement signed by LeVar Burton, host of the *Reading Rainbow* series. First, second and third place winners are selected for each grade level, with each receiving a *Reading Rainbow* backpack, a DVD copy of a *Reading Rainbow* program, and being treated to a special Winners Celebration Event in Jackson. First place winners will advance to the national competition. The contest is conducted in cooperation with MPB and WNED-TV of Buffalo, New York, and Smarterville Productions LLC. *Reading Rainbow* is broadcast Monday through Friday at noon on MPB.

Visit www.mpbonline.org for **2008 *Reading Rainbow* Young Writers and Illustrators Contest** entry forms, rules and information.

Early Childhood

Kudos to the *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Project!

MPB received the 2008 National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) award in Instructional Media for **MPB's *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative** during the annual NETA Conference held in Columbus, Ohio this year.

According to MPB Executive Director Marie Antoon, "Education is a core mission for Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The ***Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative** exemplifies how MPB provides educational services and resources that are meaningful, impactful and successful directly to the diverse needs of our communities in the area of early childhood development."

Between the Lions features a loveable family of lions— father Theo, mother Cleo, son Lionel, and daughter Leona—to introduce pre-kindergarten children to the concepts of print, language, and reading. The same video segments broadcast on MPB each weekday and on public broadcasting television stations nationwide are being used to stimulate early learning hands-on reading activities in the participating child care centers.

Recent research findings concluded that the literacy environment of the *Between the Lions* participating classrooms improved dramatically as a result of their involvement in the project – as much as 58% to 100% – including significant gains in letter knowledge, the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom, front to back), comprehension that builds their vocabulary, and improvements in the classroom that promote learning as fun and exciting. The findings are stated in the University of Mississippi Study using the Early Language Literacy and Classroom Observation (ELLCO) measurement.

The *Between the Lions* program airs weekdays on MPB TV at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education

PBS Literacylink Online Management System is now being offered at a Super-Discounted Rate!

[PBS Literacylink's](#) Online Management System (OMS) helps adult educators teach and manage the work of students who are using Web-based *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED* and *Pre-GED Connection* lessons and practice tests.

With the Online Management System, teachers can set up a virtual classroom with access to learners' online work, from a distance or inside the classroom; they can

accept or reject learners to control enrollment. Using the Literacylink e-messaging system, educators can interact with learners to offer recommendations and encouragement. At any time during the year, instructors can quickly run reports showing learner involvement, virtual classroom activity and demographics.

From the "Home Space", registered teachers can access online lessons for *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED Connection*; see answer keys for *GED Connection* quizzes and practice tests; click on a map to see airdates and times for *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED Connection* programs broadcast in their area; use the same online calculators, dictionaries, thesaurus and other tools their learners use; and keep a journal for recording thoughts and observations.

The Online Management System can be purchased three ways:

1. An individual site license allows multiple teachers at one location to establish and manage virtual classrooms.
2. A multiple-site license offers discounts for two or more sites.
3. State licenses allow all the instructional programs affiliated with the licensing agency to use the videos and the Online Management System for the life of the license. A state license also provides for large discounts for programs purchasing workbooks and additional tapes.

Mississippi ABE centers are now being offered the Online Management System at a drastically discounted rate! If your center is interested in enrolling and using this amazing service to keep track of student activity on the Web site, please contact Darrell Lee at darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

On the Horizon

Stay Tuned for the all-new MPB KIDS CLUB!

Coming this spring to Mississippi is the **MPB KIDS CLUB**—a club designed especially for children 4-12 to help them learn about technology, the environment, math, science and a whole lot more. Membership in the kids club will be free and available to any child in the state. Keep checking the MPB website for the official **MPB KIDS CLUB** launch date and for downloadable membership applications.

Helpful Links and Resources

The following websites are available for additional teaching tips, professional development, activities and information:

PBS.org

PBS TeacherLine

PBS Teachers

PBS Kids

[PBS Kids Go!](#)

[PBS Parents](#)

[PBS Literacylink](#)

www.ket.org/ged2002

<http://www.ketadultlearning.org/>

www.TV411.org

[Mississippi Department of Education](#)

[Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning](#)

[State Board for Community Colleges](#)

[Discovery Education Streaming](#)

[Test Prep Review](#)

www.gedonline.org

www.NetSmartz.org

[Discovery Educator Network](#)

How Can We Help – What Do You Want to See?

We want to hear from you, and learn what kinds of content you would like to see in the monthly MPB Education Services e-Newsletter. Was the information in this issue helpful? What more would you like to see? We are also seeking questions and comments about the format of this newsletter.

Finally, we want to use this newsletter to answer your questions about Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services. Please email all comments and questions to darrell.lee@mpbonline.org, or you can call us at (800) 922-9698.

For more information about our services and programming, visit our website at www.mpbonline.org.

Our mailing address is:

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Educating Entertaining Enlightening