

# Think's Links!

## Selected highlights from Verizon Thinkfinity!

August

### News From Our Office



**New Thinkfinity brochures and posters are available.** If you would like to have copies of these to share with your teachers and administrators, let me know and I will order them and have them sent to you. The new brochures feature the 21st Century Kid and contain information about the partners and general information about Thinkfinity. The Brochures are intended to be handed out before training, to invoke interest in attending training sessions. The posters of the 21st Century Kid are designed to be an asset to the computer lab or to display when hosting a Thinkfinity training session. Let me know how many you need—[dpotts@ioes.org](mailto:dpotts@ioes.org) or call me at 800-252-4822 x233.

#### The Verizon Foundation

- The official name for Thinkfinity is now **Verizon Thinkfinity**. Check the Trainers Toolbox for up-to-date materials for your use in workshops. If you are creating workshop flyers, etc., please use the new logo (see bottom right hand corner). We will be reprinting the Illinois book-mark shortly with the new logo. If you would like some of these to handout, let us know.
- **Verizon Thinkfinity.org Named a Landmark Website for Teaching and Learning**—Verizon Thinkfinity.org was recently named to the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) list of Best Websites for Teaching and Learning: Landmark Websites.
- The **Verizon Foundation** was 3rd in educational grants awarded in 2008. Check out the Foundation website for more information about the grants that have been awarded and the process by which your school might be awarded a grant. (<http://foundation.verizon.com/index.html>)
- The new **Thinkfinity Website** is getting close to launch. The anticipated unveiling is mid-September. The new website will allow users to search by state standards as well as keyword, grade level, partner, type of resource, or resource.
- As part of the unveiling, **Widgets** will be available which will allow schools to add Thinkfinity widgets to their website. These will include the Thinkfinity search engine, new resources, monthly calendar, etc.
- Each month, Thinkfinity sends out an electronic **newsletter**. If you are not receiving this newsletter, go to <http://www.thinkfinity.org/newsletter.aspx> and sign up, or if you have signed up and still not receiving the newsletter, let me know at [dpotts@ioes.org](mailto:dpotts@ioes.org).

#### IOES—Your State Partner

- This summer we have had a Thinkfinity display at the Will County Expo for Educators where we talked to over 300 people about Thinkfinity. We also provided workshops at IACTE and for Chicago Public School Teachers in June and July. If you know of opportunities for us to do awareness sessions or to display information about Thinkfinity, let us know.
- This fall we will be providing a workshop at the School Library Media Association meeting in October and will have a display and table talk at the Illinois Association School Board Meeting in November. There is room on the calendar for a few more, send me the dates and any information you might have.
- Don't forget, it is vitally important for all training and workshops to be documented by registering them on the calendar in the Trainers Toolbox. If you have questions about doing this or need help, contact us.

### Kayti's Picks

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/608/01/> ReadWriteThink links to the Purdue Online Writing Lab.

**Summary:** This handout will cover some of the major issues with appropriate language use: levels of language formality, deceitful language and Euphemisms, slang and idiomatic expressions; using group-specific jargon; and biased/stereotypical language.

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lesson=EM253&page=teacher>

Students will learn to reflect on their own spending habits while recognizing that all choices involve costs and benefits, as well as, identify and develop effective promotions and advertisements.

[http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/sci\\_update.php?DocID=267](http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/sci_update.php?DocID=267)

A Science Netlinks lesson concerning School Bus Fumes!

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L297>

**Dealing with Data in the Elementary School:** This project-based unit on statistics furnishes a vehicle for problem solving through real-world data collection and analysis. Students use the mean, mode and median to analyze their data and use graphs to represent their findings

Verizon Thinkfinity is an online portal with over 55,000 free resources available to educators.

For more information on Verizon Thinkfinity  
Contact Debbie Potts, Illinois Thinkfinity State Education Partner  
[dpotts@ioes.org](mailto:dpotts@ioes.org) or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 233

Or

Kayti Holley-Goleman, Thinkfinity Project Assistant  
[khgoleman@ioes.org](mailto:khgoleman@ioes.org) or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 230