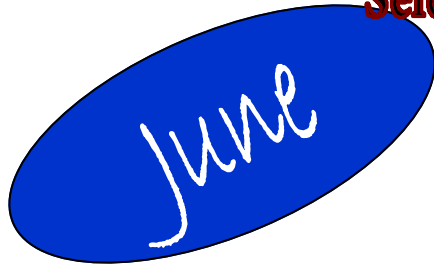


Think's Links!

Selected highlights from Verizon Thinkfinity!



News From Our Office



The Illinois Office of Educational Services is proud to host a Thinkfinity "Train the Trainer" Session August 6, 2009, 8am-5pm, and August 7, 2009, 8am-12pm. There is no cost for the training, though you are responsible for your own travel, lodging, and meals.

You can expect to gain Verizon Thinkfinity Field Trainer Status, as well as 12 CPDUs. This is an exciting opportunity that we are only able to offer to the first twenty people who register. This workshop prepares you to be an expert in the use of this phenomenal resource and prepared to train others to use internet resources in the classroom to assist students in meeting state learning standards. To register or contact us, go to <http://www.ioes.org/thinkfinity/thinkfinity.html>

NEWS and NOTES

Change is coming to Thinkfinity

- There is a new Thinkfinity/Verizon Foundation Logo. It is due to be unveiled by June 15th. The new logo will be available to Field Trainers in the SEP Toolbox.
- The search engine is changing and growing. Google applications and relevancy are being used and will give searchers more depth when searching for resources.
- There will be a site redesign coming in mid-August. They tell us it will be lighter and brighter.
- Widgets are almost here. Thinkfinity will make widgets available for schools and organizations to add Thinkfinity to their websites. The first four to be completed will be the search engine, calendar, resources and features. Once they are installed on your website they will be automatically updated.
- Field Trainers and end users who have registered on Thinkfinity should be getting a monthly newsletter from Thinkfinity. If you are not receiving the Thinkfinity Newsletter from the Foundation go to <http://thinkfinity.org/newsletter.aspx> and register to receive the newsletter. At the same address there is an archive of the newsletters that have been sent and can be downloaded.

Don't Forget

- If you are attending NECC in Washington, DC, June 28-July 1, stop at the Thinkfinity Booth and say Hello to the Thinkfinity Staff that do so much to help us.

Kayti's Picks

<http://calculationnation.nctm.org/>

Become a citizen of Calculation Nation™, NCTM's new collection of online math strategy games for elementary and middle school students. (This is still in BETA testing so may be running a little slow — don't give up, it is worth the wait.)

<http://www.gosmithsonian.com/nightatthemuseummovie>

Get a backstage tour of the museums and artifacts that inspired the film **Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**.

<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/tln/fileadmin/elementary-literacy-calendar/elemcalendar.htm>

31 Days to Better Reading! Find fun literacy-building activities to do with young children in Thinkfinity's Literacy Connection Calendar. Or explore Literacy Network's Podcasts for Parents of Elementary School-Age Children for activities to support fluency, vocabulary and phonics skills.

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm?DocID=128>

Hollywood Dinosaurs, teaching students to use relevant evidence and logical reasoning to construct theories for dinosaur behavior and examine recent evidence that challenges a prevailing dinosaur theory. **Land of the Lost** opens June 5th, so I thought this was appropriate!

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

For more information on Verizon Thinkfinity
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