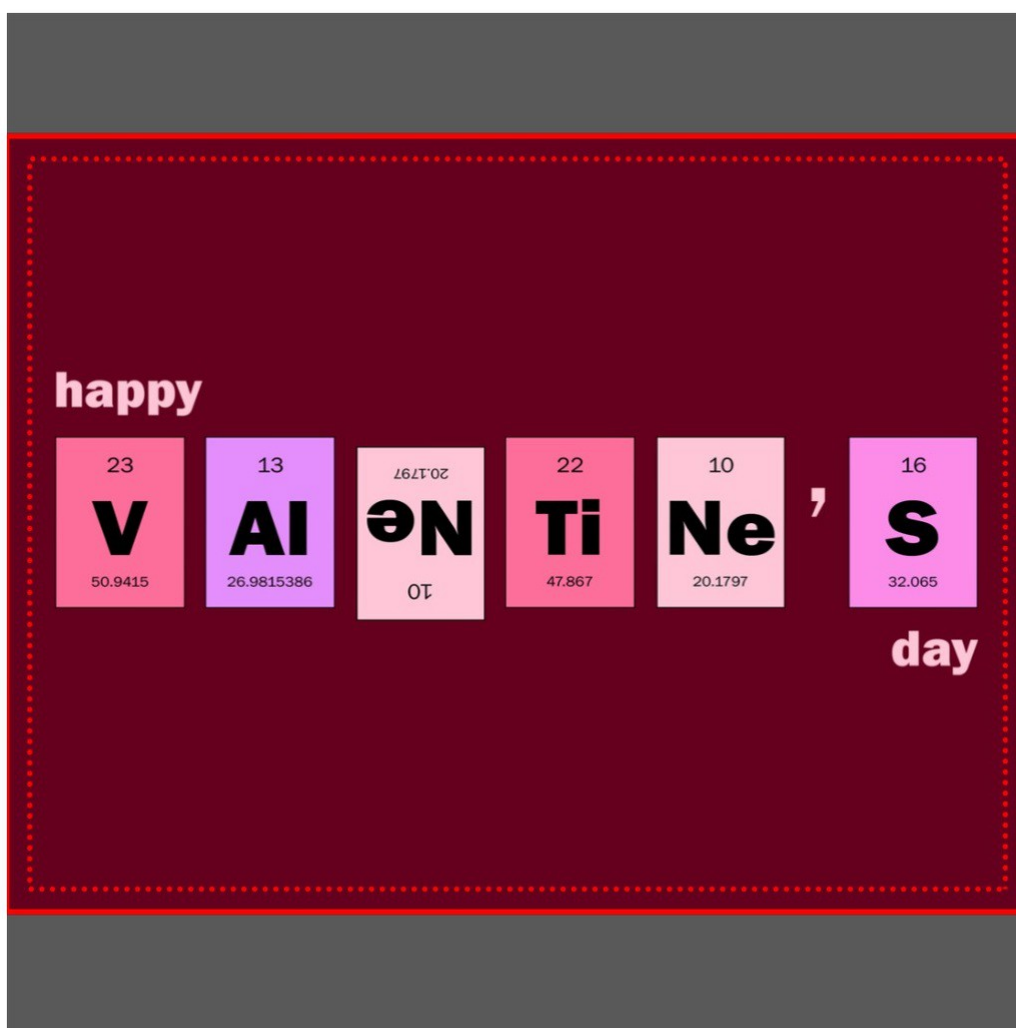


A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

February 2024



Geek Nerd Science Happy Valentin... by dickenscards

Zazzle

A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

During February, how do you show your love and passion for science with your students? Teachers can foster a love and passion for science among students. Here are some ways teachers can convey their enthusiasm for science:

1. Themed Lessons:
 1. Design lessons centered around February, incorporating topics relevant to the month, such as winter-related scientific concepts or the birthdays of notable scientists.
2. Science Heroes Appreciation:
 1. Celebrate and highlight the achievements of famous scientists born in February, sharing their stories to inspire students.
3. Valentine's Day Science Exploration:
 1. Incorporate science activities related to Valentine's Day, allowing students to explore the scientific aspects of love, heart anatomy, or the chemistry behind Valentine's Day colors.
4. Seasonal Science Experiments:
 1. Conduct science experiments tied to the seasonal aspects of February, such as studying the effects of cold temperatures or exploring winter-themed scientific phenomena.
5. Incorporate Black History Month:
 1. Connect science education with Black History Month, showcasing the contributions of notable Black scientists and inventors to various scientific fields.
6. Interactive Demonstrations:
 1. Engage students with hands-on activities and demonstrations that showcase the excitement and wonder of scientific principles.
7. Virtual Field Trips or Guest Speakers:
 1. Organize virtual field trips or invite guest speakers, such as scientists or professionals, to share their experiences and insights with students.
8. Science Challenges and Competitions:
 1. Arrange fun and educational science challenges or competitions within the classroom, encouraging teamwork and problem-solving.
9. Creative Science Projects:
 1. Encourage students to express their understanding of science through creative projects, whether it be science-themed art or writing assignments.
10. Open Dialogue and Curiosity:
 1. Foster an environment where students feel comfortable discussing their interests in science. Encourage open dialogue and curiosity-driven exploration.

By implementing these approaches, educators can effectively share their love for science during February and instill a passion for the subject among students.

Warm regards,
Tanya Elmer
President
Idaho Science Teachers Association



Annual ISTA Board Training

ISTA's board of directors met last weekend at the Discovery Center of Idaho in Boise for their annual board meeting and training. Our leadership had great conversations around our strategic plan and serving our members with great professional development and networking opportunities. Check out these pics of the board playing around on break!



BSU Science and Engineering Festival

The Engineering and Science Festival is a FREE event for K-12 students and their families on the Boise State University campus. Check out a range of exhibits and activities including robotics, circuitry, virtual reality, 3D printing, and expert-led presentations by various scientific and engineering disciplines. With various hands-on experiences, the festival is meant to ignite curiosity and spark interest in STEM fields.

Saturday, February 3rd
10 am - 3 pm



Bengal STEM Day at ISU

Registration is open for Bengal STEM Day, held on Thursday, February 22, 2024!

Hosted by Idaho State University's College of Science and Engineering, Bengal STEM Day is designed to inspire middle and high school students' interest in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Space is limited, so register early!

<https://www.isu.edu/cose/bsd/>



Nominate an Elementary (K-6) teacher!

PAEMST

PAEMST Nominations are Open - K-6 Cycle

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades [K-6] for the 2023-2024 award year. Teachers may also apply directly.

The nomination deadline is January 6, 2024, and the application deadline is February 6, 2024, for ELEMENTARY (K-6).

[Nominate a K-6 teacher today!](#)



IDAHO SCIENCE STANDARDS



WED, FEB 21 AT 6:30 PM

Spring 2024 Idaho Science Standards Class

☆ Interested

Idaho Science Standards Class from the Idaho Science Coaches

Build confidence in implementing three-dimensional science instruction in your classroom through this asynchronous and self-paced online course, beginning January 21 and running until March 22. Complete six modules in a flexible format that can work around your busy schedule, and finish the course with a lesson plan that aligns with a 3D Idaho State Science Standard. Registration deadline is February 21st. Class is capped at 30 participants.

2 credits available through NNU (optional).

Register <https://ow.ly/gYUg50QrnMC>



FULBRIGHT-HAYS GROUP PROJECT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Fulbright-Hays Group Project

Unique travel PD opportunity to Mozambique for K-12 teachers in Idaho! Boise State University, through the Center for Global Engagement, will sponsor six Boise State faculty members and six Idaho K-12 educators to participate in a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) in Mozambique, Africa. The curriculum development program entitled: Forging a Future for Africa Through Sustainability: Lesson from Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park. The sponsorship is possible thanks to a grant funded by U.S. Department of Education's International And Foreign Language Education program.

Follow the link for more information: <https://wix.to/kGyLH47>



Watercolor by Nicole Kelner. So cool! What can you create?

National Wind Energy Art Contest!

KidWind calls upon students in kindergarten through 8th grade from around the US to create artwork about the theme Beautiful Wind Energy. We want to see the amazing art you can create!

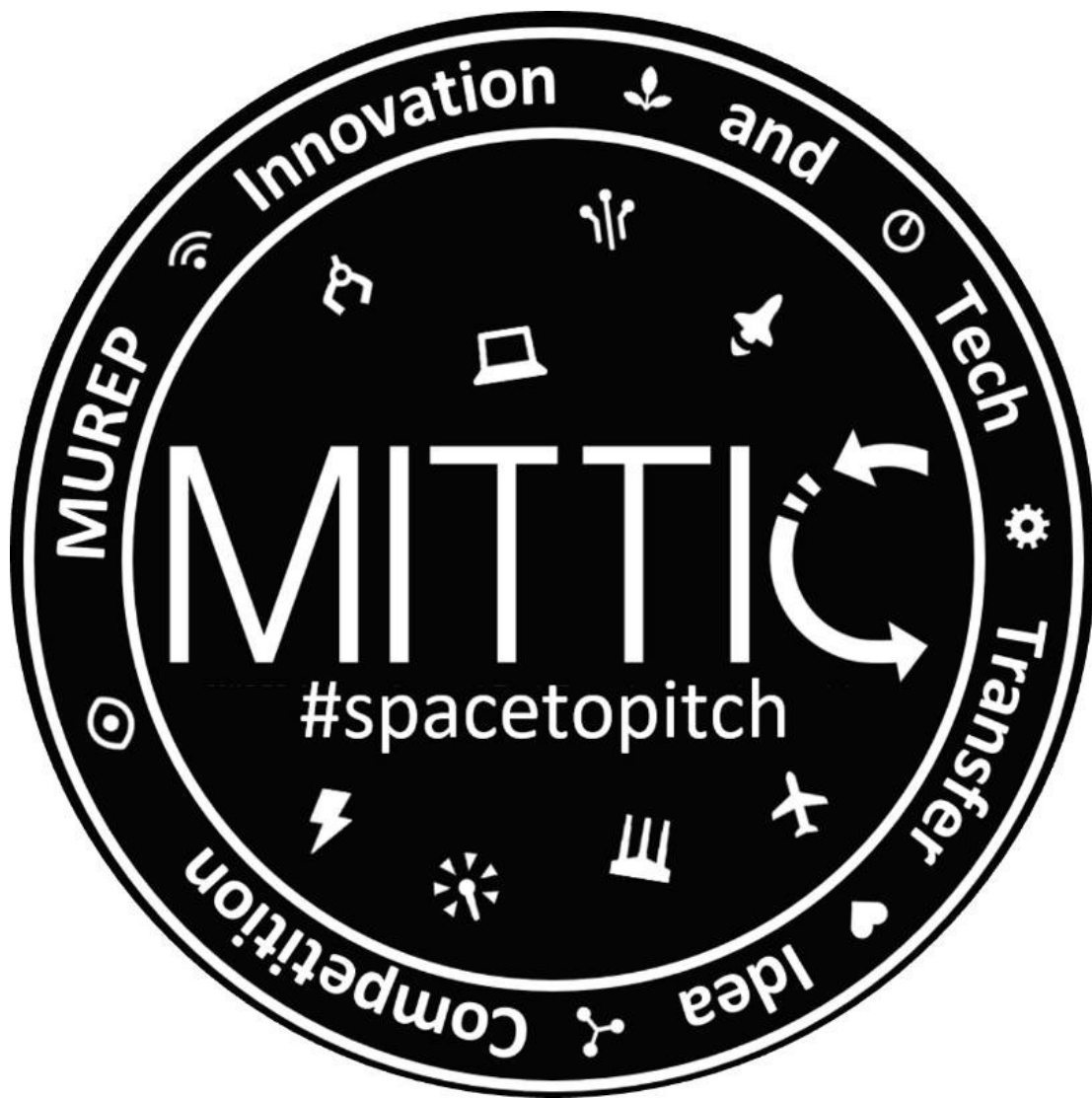
Two winners from each grade (K-8) will receive \$200 and the chance to show their work at the annual CLEANPOWER 2024 conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from May 5–8, 2024 alongside the World KidWind Challenge.

Early submissions are encouraged! In fact, the first 20 coaches to enter submissions will win Coloring Books from Nicole Kelner and KidWind Mini Turbine kits!

We are so excited to have Artist Asia Ward back to lead this amazing project and sponsorship by the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office.

National Wind Energy Art Contest

Great opportunity here for K-8 students! Details> <https://bit.ly/3RXbBQk>



MUREP Innovation and Tech Transfer Idea Competition

Applications are open for 2024 MITTIC! Students at MSIs are invited to brainstorm new innovative uses of NASA technology. Top teams will travel to [NASA's Johnson Space Center](#) for the [#SpaceToPitch](#) competition.

Submissions are due March 13.

<https://go.nasa.gov/nasamittic>



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

STEM TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Recruiting now for a community-based cohort of Master's in Teaching candidates dedicated to high quality STEM teaching in Idaho's rural-serving schools.

**Fully Paid Tuition +
Salary Supplement**

Eligibility Requirements

- » Primary residence in southwest Idaho (Regions 3 & 4)
- » STEM-related bachelor's degree
- » Not previously certified to teach in Idaho
- » Desire to teach in Grades 6-12 rural-serving schools
- » Commitment to pursue the program full-time

STEM Teaching Fellowship

Boise State University is offering a STEM Teaching Fellowship for a community-based cohort of Master's in Teaching candidates.

Candidates must be dedicated to high-quality STEM teaching in Idaho's rural-serving schools.

Program features:

- » Initial teacher certificate & Master in Teaching degree
- » FULLY paid tuition and fees -AND- a stipend for living expenses
- » \$10,000/year salary supplement for first 4 years teaching
- » and more!

Interested in participating? Complete this form: <https://ow.ly/hQbX50Q0CE9>

Cohort starts May 2024.

Please share this opportunity with STEM-focused candidates in your district!

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2023-2025

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Melyssa Ferro

Melyssa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters