

ESON Network News



Contact Information:

P: 780-448-0055
F: 780-453-2711
E: esons@telus.net
W: www.sciencehotline.ca

Special points of interest:

- > APEGGA volunteers join science networks for classroom outreach programs.
- > Development of more FREE classroom resources.
- > ESON forms a new partnership
- > Career Sessions and Science Workshops a success!

Your vital link to the scientific and educational communities

APEGGA volunteers join networks to deliver in-class presentations

The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) and the Alberta Science Literacy Association (ASLA) are excited to announce the merger of two existing classroom outreach programs.



Now to be called Scientists & Engineers-in-the-Classroom, the program will be run by Edmonton Science Outreach Network (ESON) and Calgary Science Network (CSN), in its first year.

By working together we can improve efficiencies, reach more schools and fill more requests—particularly in engineering related curriculum topics.

ASLA and APEGGA recognize that science literacy skills help students to evaluate information, make informed decisions and succeed in today's workplace and society. Our unique science, engineering, technology and math-related presentations, complement the Alberta Education Science Curriculum, make the connection to the real world and get kids excited about science!

"This is a tremendous opportunity for APEGGA to increase access to our in-classroom presentations and to improve efficiencies in the program's administration. We look forward to working with ASLA to

get kids excited about science and engineering!" says Len Shrimpton P.Eng. Chief Operating Officer, APEGGA. Anita Rossall P.Eng. President, ASLA agrees. "ASLA is very pleased to join with APEGGA to deliver the Scientists & Engineers-in-the-Classroom program to Alberta Schools. Partnering with a well-respected professional organization raises our profile and improves our ability to fill requests for presentations. Ultimately teachers and students will be the big winners."

Increasing the pool of volunteers, especially in the professions of Engineering, Geology and Geophysics, classrooms will have greater access to enthusiastic volunteers. Creation of a one-stop shop for teachers and the resulting administrative efficiencies will benefit everyone.

Volunteers make a difference—contact ESON to volunteer now!

We welcome APEGGA's tremendous resource base of practicing engineers and geoscientists, their respected reputation and commitment to science outreach!

APEGGA volunteers in the Edmonton area are encouraged to sign up with ESON to allow a smooth roll out of the program by September 2010. If you are already an ESON volunteer and a professional engineer, no action is needed.



Share your passion for science... Inspire tomorrow's scientists and engineers! Join Scientists & Engineers-in-the-Classroom.

Teachers please use the online booking to request a FREE presentation at your school. Requests are filled on a first come, first served basis and are subject only to volunteer availability.

To show our appreciation, each semester the names of participating volunteers in the Scientists & Engineers-in-the-Classroom program are entered into a draw for a \$50 gift certificate to Moxie's Restaurant.

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Ongoing Development of Classroom Resource Kits

In the last year, ESON has expanded its services to include the development of Science Resource Kits for teachers to use in their classroom.

Our resource kits are available to all teachers in the Greater Edmonton area to borrow free of charge. These kits are curriculum based and are designed to help bring a hands-on aspect to the classroom.

We are continually developing new classroom resources. If there is a specific topic you would like to see developed, please contact us.

Available Kits:

Grade 2: Boats and Buoyancy
Grade 2: Magnetism
Grade 3: Rocks and Minerals
Grade 4: Light and Shadows
Grade 5: Electricity and Magnetism
Grade 6: Sky Science

Coming Soon...

Grade 6: Flight
Grade 6: Evidence & Investigation
Grades 1 & 3: Building Things
Grade 1: Needs of Plants & Animals
Grade 2: Small Crawling & Flying Animals



Teacher participation and feedback are encouraged and appreciated. This feedback allows us to improve our programming and services to teachers and their students.

To show our appreciation, each semester the names of participating teachers who complete feedback forms after using one of our Science Resource Kits or participate in the Scientists & Engineers-in-the-Classroom program are entered into a draw for a \$50 gift certificate to Education Station.



**EnviroBLAST is
a great
program for
your students
to gain
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ESON and The Lung Association Partner for EnviroBLAST

EnviroBLAST (Building Leadership for Action in Schools Today), a pilot air quality and health program facilitated by the Lung Association, Alberta & NWT in partnership with ESON, took place on March 19th at the University of Alberta.

With the goal to empower junior high students to make a difference, this one-day workshop was a great program for students to gain leadership, critical thinking, and communication skills. The

workshop included guest speakers to educate students on different air quality issues and a science experiment that allowed them to gain scientific knowledge on air quality measurements and analysis.

With the support of an adult coach, teams of grade 7-9 students were empowered to create their own activities and action plans to educate their peers, school and community about air quality issues and how it impacts our health.

With the workshop complete, teams go back to their schools and work on their projects until June 2, which is Clean Air Day. To aid in project development and implementation, teams are provided with Youth Action Grants, and on Clean Air Day, all EnviroBLAST teams will gather at Churchill Square or City Hall to present their projects to city staff and other local environmental organizations also attending events that day.

Science Workshops and Career Sessions

ESON is committed to increasing scientific literacy at every level of the education process especially with educators themselves. From September 2009–March 2010 ESON offered a series of science workshops that were grade level based and clearly linked to the Alberta Science Program of Studies. Topics included DNA Electrophoresis, Flight and Aerodynamics, Electricity, and Magnetism.

ESON worked with some great partners this year including the Uof A, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the Alberta Aviation Museum, and the Telephone Historical Museum.

Be sure to check out the upcoming teacher PD opportunities we will be offering for the 2010-2011 school year on our website.

This year, ESON also partnered with the Department of Agriculture at the University of Alberta to offer free in-school career sessions.

Students had the opportunity to question working scientists and staff from post secondary institutions about many aspects of preparing for and working in a science career.

