Welcome to Science Update 2014
Number 12 for 2014

ESA is very excited to announce EdFest, a free national virtual conference which will take place online on Tuesday 27 January, 2015.

The event will feature professional learning resources, conversations and provocations from some of the country’s great educators and thinkers.

The quiz date for 2015 is:
Thursday 23 July 2015

Promoting CHEMISTRY in Schools
and CHALLENGING Students!

- 30 multiple choice questions, takes approx. 1 hour.
- Supervised by school teachers.
- 4 divisions available: Junior years 7-8 Senior year 11
  Junior years 9-10 Senior year 12

Improve is Scootle’s free learning and assessment tool. Teachers can access science tests or build and share their own quizzes. New features include a mobile device-friendly interface and class sharing functionality, allowing classes to be shared between teachers.

CAASTRO in the Classroom Plus Curriculum Revision Lecture “SPACE”
The session will run on
Wednesday 26th November 2014
11:00am - 12:00pm
with Jason Drury from Sydney Uni.
http://www.caastro.org/bookings

Science Update now online at http://issuu.com/science_newsletter
The non-DEC products and events listed in this eNews are to be used at the reader’s discretion. The inclusion of product and event information is not an endorsement by the DEC.
The Kickstart Science Workshops are aimed at HSC science students and teachers in the areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

These workshops are designed to meet sections of the science syllabus that may require specialist equipment or expertise.

Kickstart workshops give HSC students a chance to do experiments and demonstrations of key ideas in the syllabus that are difficult to do in the classroom.

In 2015, the cost of Kickstart will be $29.70 (incl GST) per student per module.

Kickstart Physics and Biology will travel on the road to Armidale in 2015. Workshops will be held at Armidale High School on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 May.

Kickstart Biology, Chemistry and Physics are running in the June School Holidays. Students can register individually to attend these sessions.

Bookings will be taken through their online booking portal.

For further information please contact:
Jessica Morris
Phone: (02) 9114 0825
E-mail: science.alliance@sydney.edu.au
Every day our teachers and schools inspire and engage their students. Every educator has unique ways of addressing the different challenges that arise in their classrooms, and a wealth of experience to share.

This is an exciting chance to showcase and share the innovative practices happening in classrooms and schools across NSW. Take this opportunity to share your successful strategies, learn from your colleagues, engage your school community and bring your story to life by creating short videos of your teaching practice.

ClassMovies videos are up to five minutes in length. You can make your own video free of charge in the eight focus areas of:

- Beginning teacher support
- Collaborative practice
- Connected Communities
- Curriculum implementation
- Early Action for Success
- Local Schools, Local Decisions
- Engaging with your school community
- Technology.

You can access ClassMovies TV via the link below:

http://www.classmoviestv.com/decnsw
TED-Ed's new interactive periodic table with a video for every element

The team at periodicvideos has created a TED-Ed Lesson for every element of the periodic table. This one is about potassium -- an "evil" element, but one that's crucial to life. In this video, see some violent explosions and the gentle creation of a potassium mirror.

Could comets be the source of life on Earth? - Justin Dowd

While comets were historically thought to be ill omens of war and famine, recent science has revealed that these celestial wonders actually contain amino acids, the building blocks of life on Earth.

Hey science teachers - make it fun

High school science teacher Tyler DeWitt was ecstatic about a lesson plan on bacteria (how cool!) — and devastated when his students hated it. The problem was the textbook: it was impossible to understand. He delivers a rousing call for science teachers to ditch the jargon and extreme precision, and instead make science sing through stories and demonstrations.
SPACE ACADEMY AND FIELD STUDIES

LAZSTA (Metropolitan South West Science Teachers Association) and iSTEM will again embark on an enrichment program that will see 56 teachers and students participate in Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama in September 2015.

This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for teachers and students in years 9-12. During Space Camp 2015, participants will be provided with opportunities for science enrichment and leadership development which will be supported with visits to science centres, schools and universities.

This program is recognised as 30 hours NSWIT accredited teacher training.

For more information contact Dr Ken Silburn (President LAZSTA)  
Mobile: 0402412358  
email ken.silburn@gmail.com  
or www.spacecamp.com.au

STANSW young Scientist

A record 320 people including close to a hundred school students from around NSW converged on the University of Wollongong on Monday 27 October for the annual STANSW Young Scientist Awards. A major initiative of the Science Teachers' Association of NSW, the Awards aim to foster innovation, creativity and a love of science in children from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Over $10,000 was awarded to the state finalists and three Year 9-12 students won the University of Wollongong sponsored Intel ISEF prize, which will see them representing Australia at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held in Pittsburgh, USA, in May 2015.

Congratulations to Malki Senanayake from Hornsby Girls High School who achieved second place in the Years 7-9 Biology category for her project: Which spices work best to prevent spoilage of bread?

Start planning now for 2015. The booklet has great ideas to guide students through the scientific investigation process.

For information, contact youngscientist@stansw.asn.au or go to www.stansw.asn.au/ys/