

# CSAANYS NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE  
406 Fulton Street • Suite 512 • Troy, New York 12180

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NCEA AWARDEE

Sister Carol Cimino has been chosen to receive the NCEA's Secondary School Department Award for years of distinguished service to Catholic Education and NCEA. The award will be presented during the 1991 NCEA convention at the department's convocation on Wednesday, April 3 at 11am in Ballroom A of the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

Sister Carol has been with CSAANYS since September 1987. During the past 3 1/2 years. Sr. Carol has made 295 presentations both within NYS and across the US. NCEA has utilized her talents in Summer Workshops and at its annual conventions.

Sister Carol was nominated for this award by CSAANYS Board member Sister Carolyn Schanz, to whom we are most grateful.

## REMINDER

It is vital that principals remind parents of the April 1 deadline for transportation requests. Students new to the district have 30 days to request transportation.

## TIPS

The first semester of this school year has afforded me the opportunity to visit several of our schools across the state. In one elementary school principal's office I saw these 10 commandments of Human Relations. From them you might chose a New Year's Resolution. I did.

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise - cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy - yours - the other fellow's - and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

*Sr. Mary Anne Brawley, DC*

Make a habit of sending a handwritten note once a week to a teacher, a student, a parent, a parishioner or anyone else who has done something well. Everyone enjoys being noticed. Show that you care and appreciate.

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE:

1) **RADON** testing is neither federally nor state mandated at this time.

2) **WATER COOLERS**, if in service, must be tested for lead contamination.

3) **SCHOOL DRINKING WATER** from a public water supply source need not be tested.

4) **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN YOUR SCHOOL, A RESOURCE HANDBOOK** is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC 20460. Publication #2DT-2001.

"Claimant was employed as an English teacher by a religious organization which operates a high school. After that employment terminated, claimant filed for, and initially received unemployment insurance benefits. Subsequently, it was determined that the claimant was not eligible for the unemployment insurance benefits because her employer, the religious organization, was exempt under the Labor Law from making unemployment benefit contributions." (Matter of Klein [App Div 3] 10/18/90)

#### NONPUBLIC TO PUBLIC SCHOOL

"Petitioners' daughter, born on 12/7/84, could not attend kindergarten in a union free school district during the 1989-1990 school year because of a district cut-off date of Dec. 1 (Ed. L 3202(1)). Petitioners enrolled their daughter in a nonpublic kindergarten program registered by the State Ed. Dept. Subsequently, petitioners requested the district to enroll their daughter in first grade beginning Sept. 1990. Based on psychological, educational and speech/language evaluations of the child, the board of education determined to place her in kindergarten rather than in the first grade. Although the nonpublic school was of the opinion that the child was ready for first grade, the board's tests indicated otherwise. There was no evidence that the board's action was arbitrary or capricious (Matter of Pleener [Commissioner's Decision #12,390] 8/28/90).

"Under an amendment to the Public Health Law, services provided by approved organizations may also include the provision of breast health awareness programs at the secondary level" (ch 334, adding Pub. Health L 2406(2) eff. 6/30/90)

Section 3635 l.b. of the Education Law has been amended by Chapter 718 of the Laws of 1990. It has been renumbered 3635 l.b.(1) and a new paragraph b.(ii) has been added. The new paragraph permits a board of education to transport pupils residing more than 15 miles from a nonpublic school, if such transportation had been provided to the same nonpublic school in at least one of the immediately preceding three school years and such transportation is provided from one or more centralized pickup points, the distance from which is not more than 15 miles.

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL

Have you ever investigated the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans Programs? In planning for the 1991-92 school year you might be interested in checking out this opportunity for civic education. Contact 1-800-441-6533 or 441 North Lee St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2346.

#### CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PROJECT

Habitat for Humanity, an ecumenical grass-roots Christian ministry has as its goal the elimination of poverty housing and homelessness. To that end, houses are built or renovated by using as much volunteer labor and donated materials as possible. Then, employing "Biblical economics", they are sold to a family in need at no profit and no interest.

As part of its 15th Anniversary Celebration, Habitat for Humanity needs support personnel and workers of all skill levels - professional, semi-professional, and unskilled - for 1 week to 15 weeks this summer. If interested in learning more about being a volunteer, contact:

Habitat for Humanity  
15th Anniversary Celebration  
121 Habitat Street  
Americus, GA 31709-3498

The Possibilities Catalog, a softcover book of several hundred entries, is scheduled for publication during the next school year. Each page will contain a specific program, practice or idea so successful that it is worth sharing with other schools and organizations. We encourage our members to share the excellent programs they have in operation. For application form and instructions contact CSAANYS 518-273-1205.

#### TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The State Education Dept. is seeking to expand the field test sites for a technology education program, "Principles of Engineering". This is a pre-engineering course which carries one unit of sequence credit. To participate, a school needs at least one class of 20 students who have access to a minimum of five MS DOS computers. For further information contact Michael Hacker 518-474-3954 before Feb. 15, 1991.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our CSAANYS member, Brother Robert Hoatson, CFC, principal of Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers for being named Educator of the Year by the Association of the Teachers of New York.

#### A GIFT TO YOURSELF

A Mid-Life Directions Workshop for school administrators will be held April 19-21, 1991, at the Franciscan Center in Rensselaer, NY. If you're between the ages of 35 & 65 and wonder of you're "on-top of" or "over the hill" give some consideration to understanding and celebrating your mid-life. Call CSAANYS for details.

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## IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION:

*a parents guide to understanding Nonpublic School Services to which their children are entitled, is available to member schools upon request from CSAANYS. Please use the enclosed order form or call 1-518-273-1205.*

## SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS SUMMER INSTITUTE

Again this coming summer, the State Ed. Dept. will administer the NYS Summer Institute for Science and Mathematics. The cost of these 7 resident institutes will be covered by student tuition and State funding. Tuition assistance is available to students based upon financial need. Identify and encourage outstanding science and mathematics students who have completed the appropriate science and mathematics courses to file applications by April 1, 1991. For further info contact: (518)474-8773

## PRICE CHOPPER SCHOLARSHIPS

High School Seniors in any area serviced by the Price Chopper Supermarkets are urged to apply for one of the twelve college scholarships offered through the Golub Foundation. The applicant must plan to attend a two or four year scholarship in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, or Vermont. Applications call 1-518-356-9375.

## THE ELECTRIC ADMINISTRATOR

The Electric Administrator, an affordable IBM/MS-DOS compatible software package handles most school administrative tasks: alumni, attendance, schedules, report cards, detention, book lists, utilities. For further information contact Steve Partisano 1-518-274-7293.

## VIDEO TECHNOLOGY

Grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to NYS educators K-12 to develop exemplary video technology-based projects. For further info regarding the filing of written proposals for the NYS Public Television Mini-grant program contact the manager of Educational Services at your local public television station.

## YOUTH-TO-YOUTH

Sophomore & Junior students who will be 16 by July 1, 1991 are encouraged to apply for the Multi-national & Comparative Ed. Youth-to-Youth Program to Poland. Applications must be filed by March 4, 1991. If interested contact CSAANYS.

## JOB-KEEPING SKILLS VIDEO

The State Ed. Dept. has produced an 18-minute career video on job-keeping skills. The video emphasizes teamwork, preparation, follow through, honesty, and communication. It has been designed for high school age youth and is appropriate for use in Introduction to Occupations classes. If you care to borrow this video to use or to copy, contact CSAANYS 1-518-273-1205.



*Sr. Mary Anne & Sr. Carol were recipients of the St. John Neumann Award given by the NYS Federation of Catholic School Parents, Buffalo Diocesan Chapter in recognition of their contributions to Catholic Education.*

## CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Watch for a cost-free program from P.F. Collier Educational Services on critical thinking skills. Already being offered in some dioceses, Futures consists of two sequential staff development tapes, 45 minutes in length, on teaching critical thinking skills across curriculum lines. In addition, the tapes are supported by model lesson plans, activity sheets and an implementation guide.

## PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS: SCIENCE & MATH

Nominations for the 1991 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science & Mathematics teaching are due by March 15, 1991. In all, 12 teachers: 3 elementary science, 3 elementary math, 3 secondary science, 3 secondary math, will be chosen for NYS awards by June 1991. For further information contact: for Science - Douglas Reynolds, 1-518-474-7746; for Math - Fred Paul, 1-518-474-3900.

## INITIATING CHANGE

An Institute on Catholic Education; Change: Initiating, Managing, Coping Strategies, will be held July 8 & 9, 1991 at the University of Rochester. Contact: Sr. Edwardine Weaver, 403 Lattimore Hall, Rochester, NY 14627 or call 1-716-275-7833.

## PIZZA!!

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the following regulations on an all-time favorite school lunch item PIZZA:

1) Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program may not sell pizza under a sales agreement with

any local commercial firms.

2) Commercial firms may not sell pizza directly to students within the school, if the school participates in the National School Lunch Program

3) Local commercial firms may sell pizza to schools as a supplier. (If their pizzas contain meat, a government inspection is required)

4) Ready-to-eat pizza obtained from a local supplier may be incorporated into the reimbursable meal pattern.

5) Local commercial firms may function as a food service management company if they wish.

If you have any perplexing pizza problems contact your regional office of the Bureau of School Food Management and Nutrition.

## FREE MEALS

As economic conditions change, students in your school may now qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Although new applications for determining eligibility are completed by October 1, school food authorities may accept applications at any time during the school year. Advise families of this benefit if their financial circumstances have altered.

## SCHOOL LUNCH FUNDING

School lunch funds are available for the purchase of equipment to be used in the school feeding program.

## BLEACHER SAFETY

Schools are urged to undertake regular bleacher inspection. Bleachers are subject to wear, corrosion, abuse and metal fatigue. Folding bleachers are especially susceptible to deterioration. For safe bleacher use and operation:

- \* inspect for damage at least twice a year;
- \* place dated inspection

stickers on all bleachers;

\* open and close bleachers evenly; improper opening and closing can damage bleachers and may result in collapse;

\* bleachers must be fully extended when open;

\* only those people who have been properly trained should operate bleachers;

\* no one should climb on retracted bleachers;

\* install all bleacher guardrails;

\* follow the manufacturer's instructions.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wolf Liebelt, the German Language Consultant in the State Education Department's Bureau of Foreign Languages, encourages non-public elementary schools to consider a FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) program in German.

In areas where German is a language choice at the secondary level, initiating such a program would seem to be worthwhile. Mr. Liebelt, whose position is funded by the German government, is available to help schools in developing these programs. You may contact him at 1-518-474-5927.

The following are two opportunities you may want to investigate:

\*Concordia College in Moorhead Minnesota is offering an intensive foreign language preparation program for elementary and middle school teachers, June 17-July 12, 1992. The American Association of Teachers of German will provide support for German teachers who wish to attend.

\*The American Assn. of Teachers of German is awarding grants of up to \$1000 to research, survey, check teacher availability, for developing a German Language program at the elementary level. For further info on either of the above contact 1-609-795-5553.



**PRAY FOR PEACE**

*This and all our CSAANYS newsletters is printed courtesy of Mr. John Toman of P.F. Collier Education Services.*

# CSA's NEWS

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## EDUCATION HOT SPOTS - COMMON GROUND WITH EUROPE

by Sister Mary Anne Brawley

I recently came across an article on the six "hot spots" of educating today as articulated by the European Council. In this period of acute global awareness, I found it interesting to note that here in NYS we share these same concerns:

- 1) Middle School - How can a more solid general education be provided for children between the ages of 11 and 14?
  - 2) Our inter-cultural societies - How can the cultural mixture we find in our schools be integrated into our teaching?
  - 3) Education in democracy - How can youth be imbued with the fact that Human Rights are desired by the entire world?
  - 4) Teaching languages - How shall this teaching of language be accomplished, especially in the primary schools?
  - 5) Primary Education - "When the study of the middle school took place, the teachers said that the children coming into high school knew nothing. The middle school teachers, in turn, said the problem lay with the primary school, so there was study and reflection and a report was written on the innovation needed in primary schools". Sound familiar?
  - 6) New techniques in information - How do we transform the school from a place for learning alone to a place for organization of information?
- Wouldn't it be great to pass from "enclosure" to "networking" in solving our common educational problems?

## SUPPLIES AT MINIMAL COST

Catholic schools can receive supplies at minimal cost through membership in a nonprofit organization called NAEIR, the National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources. NAEIR collects donations of excess inventory from corporations, who earn a federal tax deduction. It then redistributes this new merchandise to 7,000 schools and nonprofits across the United States. Available materials include office supplies, computer software and accessories, books, sheeted paper and paper products, teaching aids, toys and games, new shoes and clothing, tools, janitorial and maintenance supplies, building materials, arts and crafts, fabric, and hardware. Recipient organizations pay \$595. annual dues, plus shipping and handling. NAEIR says its average member received \$7,000 worth of new supplies last year, selecting needed items from 400-page quarterly catalogs. Distribution is decided by a computerized allocation system. NAEIR was founded in 1977 and gives all first-year members a moneyback guarantee. For free information on the service, including referrals, phone toll-free: 1-800-562-0955 or write: NAEIR, Dept. CS-2, 560 McClure St., Galesburg, IL 61401.

## LEGAL UPDATE

### Withholding Grades and/or Textbooks from Students

Since there is a contractual relationship between a family and a nonpublic school, nonpublic schools may refuse to provide cards or transcripts to a student whose family has not fulfilled their obligation to pay all tuition and fees. (Matter of Spas v. Wharton, 106 Misc 2d 180.)

### IDENTIFYING CHILD ABUSE

The course titled, "Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse & Maltreatment," which is mandated by the NYS Education Dept. for teachers & administrators, is being offered at 7 locations around the state during April and May. For further information contact Jackie Negri at 518-449-7873.

### SOMETHING TO WATCH

In a recent issue of Cutting Edge, the Regional Laboratory for Educational Improvement reports that the competency testing movement, having already singled out students and teachers, is now turning toward school administrators to pass a competency test for certification - up from only one state in 1980.

According to the bulletin, most states that give the tests use the results to ensure that candidates for administrative certification can handle the job. These same objectives can be achieved in other tests, the bulletin concludes.

State policymakers must be realistic about testing limitations. "Competency testing should, at best, be used as one indicator among many, of an individual's competency to be a school administrator."

## RADON

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a recommendation that calls for testing all schools for radon gas. NYS Dept. of Ed. and Health have endorsed the EPA recommendations. It is a recommendation only, not a regulation.

Because there is a lack of uniformity among radon test programs, the State Ed Dept. has developed a single course of action which it believes is appropriate for schools. Your diocesan office will share these guidelines with you.

The EPA recommendation about radon testing comes at the same time as concern is growing about the general quality of all inside school buildings. Radon is only one of the many substances which affects the quality of the air children inhale.

Keep radon in proper perspective. Pursue good air quality in your school through proper heating and ventilation systems.

## MILK PROGRAM

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) now allows split session pre-kinder-garten children to participate in the Special Milk Program when these children do not have access to the school's federally-assisted meal service programs.

Contact your regional office of the Bureau of School Food Management & Nutrition if you have questions on this policy or if you need to obtain the necessary forms to participate.

## FREE!!

\* The Office of Cultural Education of the State Ed Dept. has begun publishing a quarterly newsletter, Affinities, to encourage schools and cultural institutions to integrate community cultural resources into classroom learning. If you want a free subscription

contact: AFFINITIES, Attn: M. Sorfer, 60 Commerce Ave., Albany NY 12206.

\* Chemistry teachers may order copies of the periodic chart of the elements in a notebook size version designed to fit into a three-ring binder from Merck Professional Handbooks, PO Box 2000, WBS-435, Rahway, NJ 07065

\* Video Outreach "offers free educational videos for duplication by elementary, middle & high school educators. Many include free printed classroom materials." A wide range of subject matter is covered. For information and a list of titles available write on school letterhead to: Video Outreach, 77 Arkay Dr. Suite 2B, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

\* The NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation offers free seedlings to schools in NYS. Any school may participate. Contact your Regional DEC Forestry Office (check your local phone directory under NYS Government Offices; Environmental Conservation Dept) for specific information in your area. For schools where planting space is severely limited, an "urban wildlife packet" is available. This contains 25 seedlings of shrubs that are particularly attractive to songbirds.

\* The National Arbor Day Foundation offers free material for grades 2 & 5 on tree planting and conservation. Kits include a film-strip and audio cassette, a teacher's guide, 2 posters, and a hands-on activity book. Contact: NADF, Clsrn Instructional Materials, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

## DEADLINES

### May 1

The National Endowment for the Humanities and Readers's Digest offer a stipend up to \$27,000 for a one-year sabbatical to pursue independent study in the humanities through the Teacher-Scholar Program. One teacher from each state will be selected. Contact: (202)786-0377.

### May 15

The Robert A. Taft Institute of Government invites applications from elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, and librarians for its "Taft Seminars for Teachers," which provide advanced instruction on topics relating to American government held during June, July, & August in 31 locations. Participants will receive graduate credit plus free tuition, texts, and room & board. Contact: (212) 682-1530.

### June 1

The National Science Teachers Assoc. invites K-12 teachers to submit proposals on innovative science teaching techniques for its 1992 national convention. Send a letter requesting a proposal form or send an abstract of 150-200 words to Marvin Druger, 214 Lyman Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1270.

### August 15

The Bill of Rights Education Collaborative invites middle and high school social studies teachers to apply for its Mini-grants for Teachers Program. 250 grants of \$500 to \$1,500 to cover expenses for special projects devoted to constitutional rights. Contact: (202)483-2512.

## YOUTH AND ALCOHOL

Alcohol is the number one killer of young people. Youthful drinking also ends in many other personal tragedies. Lives are often ruined. The new Christopher News Notes, YOUTH AND ALCOHOL: A DEADLY MIX, suggests ways in which parents, educators and young people themselves can deal with the problem. The issue:

\*advises young people how they can say "No" gracefully;  
\*Provides information on the dangers of youthful drinking;  
\*Suggests ways of developing youthful self-esteem.

It is available for a minimum offering: \$4. per hundred. Contact: The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017.

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## SHORTCHANGING GIRLS - SHORTCHANGING AMERICA

The American Association of University Women has recently completed a national survey research project to study the interaction of self-esteem and education and career aspirations in adolescent girls and boys in today's society.

Some of the key findings from the research, which was conducted by Greenberg-Lake Analysis Group, are:

- \* A gender gap in self-esteem increases with age. The adolescent years strongly affect the self-esteem of both girls and boys. However, more boys than girls enter adolescence with high self-esteem, and many more young men than young women leave adolescence with high self-esteem.

- \* Adolescent girls are more likely than are boys to have their declining sense of themselves inhibit their actions and abilities; these differences accentuate with age and are more significant in white girls than in black or Hispanic girls.

- \* Family and school, not peers, have the greatest impact on adolescents' self-esteem and aspirations. In both girls and boys, pride in school work and feelings of being good at things decline rapidly during adolescence. In elementary school, about one-half of all students always feel "proud of the work I do." By high school one in six students feels that way.

- \* For young women, feelings about academic performance correlate strongly with relationships with teachers.

- \* Adolescent boys at all grade levels are much more confident than girls about their abilities in math. Half of all elementary schoolboys, but only one-third of all elementary girls say they are good at math. By high school, one in four males, but only one in seven females, still say they are good at math.

- \* There is a circular relationship between liking math and science, self-esteem, and career interests. Because of the differences in the ways adolescent women and men think about math and science, the influence of teacher on young women and their self-esteem and careers is particularly strong.

The AAUW report concludes that "the survey also reflects the dramatic societal changes in the last two decades. Most young people assume that women will combine a job outside the home with their job inside the home. Even more girls than boys think they could enter certain professions, most noticeably the law. These changes in gender perception, and broad potential for even greater changes through a better understanding of the reciprocal relationships between schools and young women students, are among the brightest findings of the survey. These results present a critical challenge to schools as we face the social and economic realities of the next century." (VOICE, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady BOCES)

## SOFTWARE/LIBRARY MATERIALS

Please note that it is not too late to order computer software or library materials for the 1990-91 school year. Under these programs, there is a per pupil allocation of \$2.00 for library materials and \$3.00 for computer software. All materials purchased by the district through these programs must be loaned free to students, and the district may not charge any transportation, shipping, handling or administrative costs.

(School Executive's Bulletin, April 1991)

## SCHOOL CHOICE

At the March meeting of the Board of Regents, Vice Chancellor R. Carlos Carballada of Rochester moved that the Regents appoint a subcommittee to study the issue of nonpublic school choice for parents of children in poor-performing public schools. The Regents approved the notion by a 10 to 3 vote, with one member abstaining. The subcommittee is to report back to the Board in June with a recommendation for action.

At the close of the 1989-90 school year, nonpublic schools in NYS had 483,975 students. Of this number 296,932 or 61% were in Catholic Schools. Nonpublic schools enrolled 145,208 minority (Black, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian) students. 104,728 of these students or 72% were in Catholic Schools.

**INSTITUTE ON CHANGE**

The University of Rochester's Graduate Schools of Education & Human Development will host a two-day Institute on Catholic Education on July 8 & 9, 1991. Entitled "Change: Initiating, Managing, Coping strategies," the institute will feature workshops & lectures on such topics as increasing understanding concerning change issues; identifying coping strategies to deal with stress from ongoing changes; and developing plans for a proactive approach toward change.

Before May 30, the fee for the entire two-day program is \$100. For more information contact Sr. Edwardine Weaver, 716-275-7833.

**ACCELERATION '91**

A summer program with effective teaching results for secondary teachers of college-bound gifted & advanced placement students will be held June 16-June 21, 1991 at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. For further information contact Dee Ball 1-800-EARLHAM.

**SAFE PROM NIGHT**

This is the time of year when thought is given to post-prom parties and graduation celebrations. A booklet entitled, Chemical Free Prom / Graduation Celebration Planning is available from the State Ed Dept's Safety Education Unit. Contact Frank Beyer 518-474-6845.

**WATER WEEK**

The Dept. of Environmental Conservation is sponsoring Water Week from May 5-11, 1991. Materials related to this event may be obtained by calling 518-457-0669.

**LAW-RELATED EDUCATION**

The 1991 Summer Institute on Civic Values and Law-related Education will be held June 24-28, 1991 at Northport High School. Registration deadline is June 7, 1991. Contact Thomas O'Donnell, Northport-East Northport, UFSD, Northport, NY 11768.

**PLAN AHEAD**

The Seventh Annual Conference for Administrators of Non-public Schools is scheduled for November 18-19, 1991.

**PARENT ED LEADERSHIP**

The National Institute for Parent Education Leadership will be held July 27-31 at Cardinal Spellman Retreat House in Riverdale, NY. Contact: Lorraine Amendolara 718-816-7801.

**SCIENCE-MATH CATALOG**

A free-catalog listing equipment, resource books and other instructional materials to stimulate active, hands-on classroom learning is available from: Teachers' Laboratory, Inc PO Box 6480, Brattleboro, VT 05302.

**VALIDATION**

Does your school have an innovative approach to staff development? A successful special education program? A math or reading program which produces student success? The State Ed Dept. can validate successes and make them available to other schools.

In order to achieve validation submit a written report which describes the program and claims of effectiveness. We urge you to consider validating your success and to become a part of the growing catalog of programs available to schools throughout the state. Contact Richard L. Egelston, Coord. of Validation, Rm 464 EBA, NYS Ed. Dept., Albany, NY 12234.

**TEACHING WITH DOCUMENTS**

The National Archives is inviting secondary-school social-studies teachers or supervisors to apply for its 1991 summer institute, "Primarily Teaching: Original Documents & Classroom Strategies," to be held in Washington, DC, June 24-July 3. Contact: Education Branch, Office of Public Programs, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408; 202-724-0454 by MAY 10.

**TEACHERS AS WRITERS**

"Teachers U.S.A.: Literary Forum for Teachers" is accepting creative-writing submis-

sions for its "Teachers as Writers" contest. There is no limit to the number of submissions but manuscripts should not exceed 100 pages. A \$2,000 first prize & a \$1,000 second prize will be given. Send a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope for an entry form and further information. Contact: Teachers U.S.A.: Literary Forum for Teachers, Box 519, Baldwin Place, NY 10505-0519, 914-962-3287. Deadline: MAY 31.

**NATION'S REPORT CARD**

For 20 years, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been periodically testing America's students to see how much they know in math, reading, writing, science, US history, civics, and geography. The results paint a portrait of student achievement in public and private schools in the United States.

In addition, this year for the first time NAEP looked at what is being done to improve student achievement. Over the past 20 years, little seems to have changed in how students are taught.

\*Despite much research suggesting better alternatives, classrooms still appeared to be dominated by textbooks, teacher lectures, and short-answer activity sheets.

\*Throughout the two-decade span, students spend little time reading at school or at home.

\*They spent little time discussing or writing about what they read.

\*They received little writing instruction, and they rarely worked on independent activities and group projects.

NAEP biennially surveys nationally representative samples of 9-year-olds & 4th-graders, 13-year-olds & 8th-graders, and 17-year-olds & 12-grade students. It is the only ongoing project to monitor what America's students know and can do at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

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