GCS

Professional Development Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7 Summer, 2009

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested In outside GCS training events for the summer? The Department of Public Instruction posts events sponsored by them, as well as other government and non-profit agencies, aimed at providing professional growth opportunities. The link below will give you access to the calendar and allow you to search the opportunities based on your current needs. You can:

- View the All Calendar Events
- View Current Month's Events
- View Meeting and Event Notices from DPI
- View Job Fairs
- View Education Conferences
- Search the Calendar

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/profdev/

Employee Self-Serve

What is the easiest way to check your CEU transcript and update your personal contact information? The answer is the recently added feature on the GCS website, Employee Self Serve. By simply logging in, you can determine how many and what kind of CEUs you have earned in your current renewal cycle. This allows you to keep up with your credits and have no surprises when your renewal time approaches. Not familiar with this feature? Use the link below to explore this valuable resource.
https://employeeservices.gcsnc.com/

"The Inspired Teacher: How to Know One, Grow One, or Be One"

This ASCD book describes 13 research-based pathways that teachers can take to grow professionally. The author offers tips and examples relevant to teaching skills that can assist teachers, as well as their mentors and/or coaches, to understand what it means to be truly inspired. Chapters include: (Underlined chapters can be previewed.)

- Chapter 1. Knowing the Subject
- Chapter 2. Using Knowledge of Teaching and Learning
- Chapter 3. Solving Instructional Problems
- Chapter 4. Improvising
- Chapter 5. Managing a Classroom
- Chapter 6. Interpreting Events in Progress
- Chapter 7. Being Sensitive to Context
- Chapter 8. Monitoring Learning
- Chapter 9. Testing Hypotheses
- Chapter 10. Demonstrating Respect
- Chapter 11. Showing Passion for Teaching and Learning
- Chapter 12. Helping Students Reach Higher Levels o Achievement
- Chapter 13. Helping Students Understand Complexity

SUMMER LITERACY ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Families can support student literacy through Family Literacy Events. Check out these summer fun activities that can keep students out of the summer doldrums.

http://www.choiceliteracy.com/public/152.cfm

Here are a few websites that offer summer reading suggestions for student enjoyment.

The Horn Book has posted their annotated list of **summer reading picks.**

http://www.hbook.com/resources/books/summer.asp

PlanetEsme provides her annual list of **favorite new children's literature titles.**

http://tinyurl.com/d73no7

Summer Conference on Differentiated Instruction, Understanding by Design and What Works in Schools

Spend three days with the experts – Carol Ann Tomlinson, Grant Wiggins, Jay McTighe, and Robert Marzano. If we understand and implement the research and works of these leading educators, we will be far more likely to ensure that every student is learning and achieving. Explore these proven approaches to school improvement - June 26-28 in Houston, Texas.

Find out more

Opportunities From DPI

Transition into Summer with Verizon's Thinkfinity.org .
Verizon Thinkfinity is gearing up to train **1000 Teachers in 1000 Minutes during June** .
Verizon Thinkfinity is offering **FREE one-hour Educator Webinars** every Monday through Friday from June 1 through June 26, plus 2 Saturday sessions on June 6 and June 20.

Learn about the thousands of no-cost resources available for 21st century teaching and learning through these hands-on, interactive sessions at www.thinkfinity.org

Sign Up Now
Go to www.thinkfinity.org and click on the **FREE TRAINING** link from any page. Scroll down to Educator Webinars and click on the Register link to view the schedule and sign up for a session.

These webinars, while very valuable, are only one hour in length and cannot be used for CEU credits.

Free Workshops offered through ESDLC

Since the NC Department of Public Instruction is a founding member of the United Star Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC), the ongoing partnership enables **ALL** North Carolina Educators access to the six USDLC online professional development courses without cost **THROUGH SEPT 1, 2009.**
For more information click here. http://www.ncpublicschools.org/distancelearning/professional/usdlc.html.

Professional Development through NC Center for Teacher Advancement (NCCAT)

NCCAT's seminars are designed to strengthen teachers' classroom expertise by exposing them to new ideas and activities they can use with their students. A wide variety of seminars are offered for all educators. For information visit: www.nccat.org.

Remember, GCS requires prior approval for ouside PD activities you wish to use for CEU credit.

Your Professional Development Department wishes you a safe and restful summer. We look forward to working with you again next year as GCS enters a new phase of organization and operation. Your growth as a professional is our top priority. Our goal is to continue to offer high quality professional development that will allow you to meet the needs of our students and ensure that they achieve their full academic potential.

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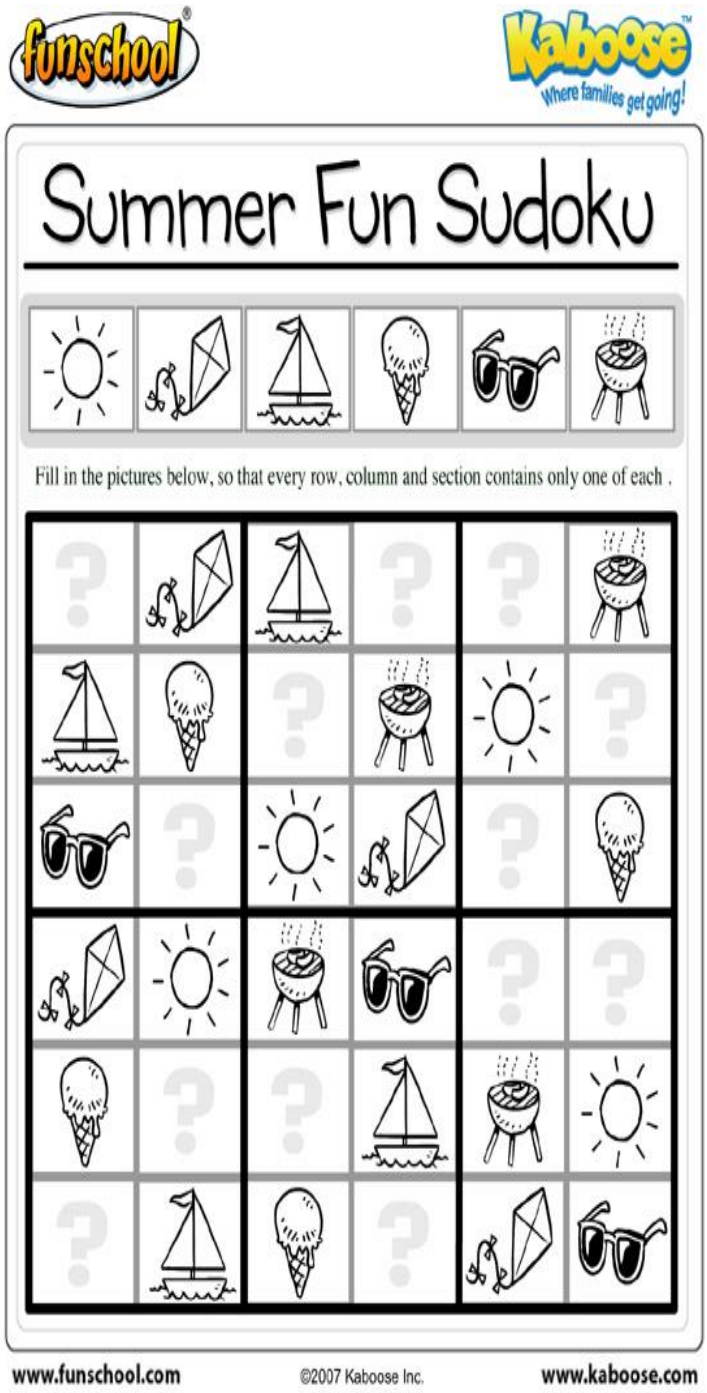

Summer Fun Sudoku

Fill in the pictures below, so that every row, column and section contains only one of each .

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Summer Fun Word Search

Try to find all of the hidden summer words in the puzzle below. Remember, words can appear diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards.

BARBECUE
CAMPING
FISHING
FRISBEE
ICE CREAM
PICNIC
POOL
SUNGLASSES
SUN TAN
VACATION

M B P A P N Z E N B P G
X A L I A A U H O F O N
C O E T C C Q B I R O I
O A N R E N V V T I L H
X U M B C B I N A S L S
S C R P Q E I C C B R I
T A S K I A C L A E Z F
B S N N Y N L I V E Z T
S E S S A L G N U S A L

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Have fun with these free puzzles from www.funschool.com