

The Wednesday Reader

May 13, 2015

This will be the final Wednesday Reader for the 2014-2015 school year. The Wednesday Reader will resume Wednesday, September 9, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. Enjoy the final days of the school year and have a great summer.

FREE Summer Professional Development for Montana Business Educators – Billings, Bozeman, & Kalispell

Three (3) regional workshops specifically for Montana's business education professionals will be held the first week of August.

- Wednesday, August 5—Skyview High School, Billings
- Thursday, August 6—Bozeman High School (Final District Approval Pending)
- Saturday, August 8—Glacier High School, Kalispell

There will not be a charge to participate but pre-registration will be required. Be on the lookout for complete workshop and registration details coming to your Inbox shortly.

Each of the workshops will be a one-day event starting at 9 am and ending by 4 pm. Up to six (6) OPI renewal units will be available for each workshop. Attendees are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meals; however, costs can be covered by Perkins and/or State VoEd/CTE funds.

Office 2010 Textbooks Looking for a New Home

Christy Hendricks at Augusta High School has 10 Microsoft Office 2010 Introductory textbooks from Shelly Cashman if anyone can use them in their classroom.

If you are interested in the books or would like more specific details about the books, please contact Christy directly at montanagirl30@yahoo.com.

Early Bird Registration for 2015 MIET Tech Days Ends Next Friday, May 22

The [2015 Montana Institute on Educational Technology](#) (MIET) Tech Days will again be offered this June for the 11th year in a row on the Great Falls College Montana State University campus Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24.

Although continuing the tradition, the conference does have some important changes which should be beneficial for everyone.

Changes and highlights for 2015 include

1. MIET will now be a concentrated two-day conference. There will be over 50 session options from which to choose along with two keynote speakers.
2. Classes will be open enrollment, similar to MEA, and will be on a first-come, first-serve in rooms with a cap at 30 attendees per session

3. An Open Session will be offered—if you missed a session or an offering you needed was not offered, the last sessions on Wednesday will provide it. The talented instructors will survey attendee needs and then offer what you asked for!
4. BYOD—Bring Your Own Device so you have the opportunity to have more practical, hands-on learning with your own device and access will not be limited to 18 computers per lab.
5. College credit of your choice will be offered for an additional fee—one (1) or two (2) masters-level continuing education credits. Participants must attend both full days to be able to earn college credit. The one-credit course includes full attendance and a reflection assignment or project. The two-credit course includes full attendance, a two-hour evening session, a 13-hour online course after MIET, and a reflective paper.
6. Lunch is included both days.

Early-bird registration is \$100 and ends May 22—save \$25 when you register by the deadline. Registration details can be found and completed at miettechdays.weebly.com/register.html.

For more information or to get questions answered, please visit the 2015 MIET website at www.miettechdays.weebly.com.

An informational flyer can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/EkMYII>.

High School Capture the Flag Competition – Programming & Cybersecurity Competition

[High School Capture the Flag 2: A Programming and Cybersecurity Competition For High School Students](#), an online programming competition, will run for the second time from May 17 to May 24, 2015.

HSCTF educates high school students across the country about computer science. Last year HSCTF ran with over 2000 students participating. Competitors in High School Capture the Flag (or HSCTF) will learn computer science skills, and use ingenuity to discover a series of increasingly hard to find "flags" encrypted, hidden, or otherwise stored somewhere difficult to access.

While HSCTF includes topics such as computer security, programming, algorithm design, and programming language design. Prizes include several hundred dollars and Facebook swag. You can sign up for email updates at www.hsctf.com.

For questions, contact Jacob Edelman, HSCTF Lead Founder and Organizer at jacob@HSCTF.com.

Summer Opportunities for Educators Looking to Teach Dual Credit Courses

The Montana University System is compiling opportunities for educators looking for graduate and undergraduate credits for teaching dual enrollment in their high school (CTE and Gen. Ed.). The Montana University System is pulling from in- and out-of-state programs, face-to-face, online, and hybrid.

Find the latest summer offerings at <http://mus.edu/DualCredit/ProfessionalDevelopment.asp>. Find them by college at <http://mus.edu/DualCredit/Programs.asp>.

Still not seeing what you're looking for? Call or email the University System Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Amy Williams, she's happy to help! dualcredit@montana.edu 406 994-3991.

FREE Online Course for Learning and Teaching Scratch

The University of Northern Iowa is pleased to announce they will once again be offering the online course "An Introduction to Programming using Scratch".

This summer's participants will have six weeks (June 8-July 17) to complete a six unit course. Each unit is a blend of 60-90 minutes of lecture videos (roughly five minutes each), hands on guided activities, and independent programming assignments.

The course will require a TOTAL commitment of approximately 20-25 hours. The pace of the course is up to the participants who may start and end at their convenience, at any time during the course offering—so long as the course is completed by July 17.

The course assumes no prior programming experience and will include material on teaching Scratch for Logo, storytelling, text interaction, and game playing, as well as coverage of some advanced topics.

You may participate in the course for personal development completely **FREE** of charge. Participants interested in earning one-hour of graduate workshop credit (suitable for license renewal in the state of Montana if gain pre-approval by OPI) have the OPTION of doing so for a fee of \$75 billed by the University of Northern Iowa.

Please feel free to contact Ben Schafer for questions or additional information at schafer@cs.uni.edu.

Further details and the registration form are available at: www.cs.uni.edu/~schafer/outreach/cs4hs/.

You May Qualify for Student Loans Forgiveness Thanks to Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

As an employee of your local school district, or college campus, you may qualify for forgiveness of a remaining balance on your eligible federal student loans (including Parent PLUS loans) thanks to the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service) (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>).

The [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service), or PSLF Program, is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their Direct Loans after they have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full time by certain public service employers.

To qualify, you must make 120 on-time, full, scheduled, monthly payments on your Direct Loans; only payments made after October 1, 2007 qualify. You must make those payments under a qualifying repayment plan. When making each of those payments, you must be working full-time at a qualifying public service organization.

Qualifying employment is any employment with a federal, state, or local government agency, entity, or organization or a not-for-profit organization that has been designated as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The type or nature of employment

with the organization does not matter for PSLF purposes. Additionally, the type of services that these public service organizations provide does not matter for PSLF purposes.

Because it will take at least 10 years for you to make the 120 qualifying payments necessary to receive PSLF, an Employment Certification for Public Service Loan Forgiveness form ([Employment Certification form](#)) has been created that you should submit and a process that you should follow to assist you in tracking your periods of qualifying employment and your qualifying payments.

The form allows you to get your employer's certification of employment while you are still employed at that organization or shortly after leaving. The process allows you to receive confirmation of qualifying employment and your Direct Loan payment eligibility. You may also submit the form less frequently than annually to cover more than one year's employment or for more than one employer.

For more details and to access complete PSLF Program guidelines, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>.

The Journey Inside – A Fascinating Look at the World of Computers

*The Journey Inside*SM (<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/education/k12/the-journey-inside.html>) is designed to close the gap. The multimedia website provides teaching materials, information, and, most importantly, a curriculum with online lessons explaining how computers, digital devices, and the Internet work.

Readings and multimedia lessons encourage students to use critical-thinking skills to explore the effect of technology on our society.

This site provides two kinds of materials you can use with your students:

- Six units that teach students using interesting facts, videos, and activities
- Supplementary instructional materials including hands-on explorations, student handouts, and group activities

*The Journey Inside*SM is a collection of 35 interactive, online lessons for students to learn about technology, computers, and society. Many of the lessons utilize interactive, media-rich Flash* activities, virtual field trips, and videos demonstrating the ideas discussed to guide students to an increased understanding of the world of technology.

Students, teachers, and anyone interested can work on the lessons and activities at their own pace to complete any or all of the six sections: Introduction to Computers, Circuits and Switches, Digital Information, Microprocessors, The Internet, and Technology and Society.

Detailed instructional strategies written for the teacher extend the lessons and key concepts in the classroom.

There is no need to register. The curriculum is available for free, from any computer that is connected to the Internet. Students can work on the lessons from the classroom, during free moments, or even from home.

Visit <http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/education/k12/the-journey-inside.html> to learn more.

Free Online Tutorials for Learning and Teaching Web Apps, Development, & Scripting

HTM.net (<http://html.net/>) offers free online tutorials for learning everything from “A to P” including ASP (Active Server Pages), HTML HTML5, CSS (Cascading Style Sheets), JavaScript, and PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor).

HTM.net also provides discussion forums for each scripting language as well as a feedback forum for designed sites.

If you, or your students, are looking for some new ideas check out **HTM.net** today.

Adobe MAX 2015 – The Creativity Conference

Adobe Max is the premiere professional development event for all things Adobe.

Adobe Max, The Creativity Conference, will be October 3-7 in Los Angeles. MAX is the annual gathering of over 5,500 creative leaders, designers, developers, strategists, video pros, and photographers.

Learn from the experts — MAX sessions and labs are taught by the best in the industry.

Get inspired to produce better work — Be exposed to new ways of thinking about your projects and see some of the coolest, boundary-pushing work out there.

Become more productive — Attend hands-on training labs to learn new tools, techniques and workflows to streamline tasks and learn from real-world case studies of success.

Learn more about the creative industry — At MAX you will be exploring ideas around how creativity is changing the world and the role you and your students can play in this creative economy.

Learn from my colleagues — MAX attendees come from organizations (small and large) from all over the world. You will be able to exchange ideas and get solutions to the challenges our organization is facing.

Complete registration, conference schedule, and lodging details can be found at <http://max.adobe.com/>. Early-bird registration ends July 31 with educator registration at a discounted \$995.

The Key to CTE is VISION 2015! Registration for ACTE CareerTech VISION 2015 Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2015 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) **CAREERTECH VISION** national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 19-22.

ACTE invites you to join the largest annual gathering of Career and Technical Education professionals in an exciting, informative and inspirational educational agenda packed with hundreds of CTE sessions, a comprehensive Expo, and a rich array of networking opportunities.

New this year, ACTE is proud to join forces with the National Association of State Directors of Career & Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) to offer a Career Cluster-focused strand of concurrent sessions featuring this critical framework for organizing high-quality CTE programs of study and the collaboration

between secondary and postsecondary CTE. In short, the National Career Clusters Conference is now a part of [CareerTech VISION](#).

The early-bird deadline is July 10. [Register today](#) to secure the most affordable rate for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015.

For complete registration and lodging information, as well as all other [CareerTech VISION](#) details, please visit <http://www.careertechvision.com/attendees.cfm>.

It's No Bull – Google Rocks Training July 20-21 in Scenic Northwest Montana

[It's No Bull—Google Rocks](#) training will be held this summer in Troy, Montana, July 20-21. The Google training will be led by Montana business educator Shelley Stanton.

The [Google Rocks](#) training will incorporate material and information from Google Teacher Academies, Google Summits, national conferences, other tools for technology integration.

More training details, registration, and an invitation to be a part of the program as a presenter can be found at www.406tech.net.

MSU's Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking

During the Montana State University summer session, MSU computer science professor Dr. John Paxton will be offering [CSCI 591 Computer Science in the Classroom: An Introduction to Computational Thinking](#) on the Bozeman campus June 15-19.

[CSCI 591](#) examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

This course parallels Dr. Paxton's CSCI 107 Joy and Beauty of Computing.

For more information about the course, summer session enrollment, and course fees please visit www.montana.edu/msse/students/summer-2015.html.

Fun Facts and Trivia

In North Carolina, Bingo games cannot last more than five hours.

Chickens are not allowed to cross the road in Quitman, Georgia.

If you cut down a cactus in Arizona, you could be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Pauling, Ohio, policemen are allowed to bite a dog if they think it will calm the dog down.

It is illegal to sell your eyeballs in Texas.

In Rhode Island, you may not sell toothpaste and a toothbrush to the same customer on a Sunday.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh