



ONTRaCT

1-800-836-7510 x3758



Be sure to check out our website www.ontract.org for updates and additions to our catalog and programs.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Conference Reimbursements depleting fast... get your application in
- **NEW WORKSHOP ON THE HOLOCAUST** (see page 4)
- **NEW WORKSHOP ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE** (see page 4)
- Student Contests starting now! (see page 1)
- **HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!**

CORRECTION: We apologize for leaving out Roy-Hart (Megan Dewey, Ann Van-Dusen, Liz Zastrow, Kathy Weber) & Lyndonville (Wendy Caldwell, Kristen Brosius, Zacklynn Rintoul) in the Conference Reimbursement section of the Fall Catalog. Thanks for participating!

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NETT Conference

This past August, the O-N Teacher Center along with NCCC's Teacher Academy and the NF Teacher Center held the first *Niagara's Exploration of Technology in Teaching Conference*. The conference proved to be a great success with over 140 current and aspiring educators attending. The conference included keynotes from Dr. Julie Little of EDUCAUSE and MaryAnn Buch, Director of Technology at Niagara Wheatfield; twenty-eight 45-minute interactive workshops relating to technology in the classroom; and a vendor display with prize giveaways. Watch for information on the second N.E.T.T. Conference which will be held in August of 2010. Requests for workshop presenters will be released in January/February. For more information, go to netconference2009.blogspot.com.

Don't forget about our NEW, FREE online professional development library. Link and log in information is on our home page, www.ontract.org

Innovative Projects Program—SUCCESS!

We received over 100 proposals this year! Once again, it was a very tough decision to choose the winners. There were so many innovative and exciting projects proposed. We were able to award \$56,268 to 68 proposals. A summary of the results are as follows: Albion—3 proposals, total \$2,841; Barker—2 proposals, total \$1,562; Lew-Port—7 proposals, total \$5,735; Lockport—12 proposals, total \$9,669; Lyndonville—3 proposals, total \$2,750; Medina—7 proposals, total \$5,920; Newfane—3 proposals, total \$2,742; Niagara Wheatfield—3 proposals, total \$2,259; Catholic Academy—1 proposal, \$714; DeSales—2 proposals, total \$1,750; North Tonawanda—7 proposals, total \$5,391; BOCES—4 proposals, \$2,532; RoyHart—3 proposals, total \$2,452; Starpoint—10 proposals, total \$9,224; Wilson—1 proposal, \$745. Congratulations to ALL!

Stock Market Game Challenge

Looking for something NEW, EXCITING and CHALLENGING for your students...Come to this introductory session on Jan 20th from 4pm—6pm

Learn how to incorporate this exciting online game into your curriculum and teach math, history, civics and language. Workshop provides everything you will need to know to strategize with your student team as they invest their virtual \$100,000. Program includes free newspapers. In addition, the Teacher Center will be running a contest for participating classes in Niagara and Orleans counties. The winning classes will receive a pizza party. To participate you must attend the workshop or call if you have participated before. Dates for the contest are Feb 22nd—April 30th. Go to www.stockmarketgame.org for more information.

Student Programs—Let Your Students' Creativity Soar!

Each year the teacher center sponsors a writing and video contest for students. These are such a great experience for everyone, including the students, families & teachers. This year's theme for both contests is **"Citizenship—as you see it"**. Students are to submit entries that portray some form of

citizenship. It can represent community, school, national, global, or digital citizenship, whatever the student decides. The writing contest is open to K-5. Students write either a poem, short story or essay and submit to their teacher. Teachers select one entry from each category and send

to our center by **March 19th**. The Video Contest is open to 6-12. Students submit a 5 minute video portraying citizenship. Entries due **March 19th**. Application is online. Prizes awarded to all winning entries. Complete details available on our website under 'Student Programs' link on left sidebar.

All courses are \$10 for members and held at the BOCES conference center in Sanborn unless otherwise indicated. To register, you MUST complete a course registration form available online at www.ontract.org.

SMART Board Coaching with Mike Fisher



4 individual sessions centering on the use of the SMART Board in your classroom. **Workshops are independent. All are 4pm-7pm and are \$10 each.**

SMART 1 (Basics): Learn how to use your SMART-board as an extension of your mouse and some of the floating tools that are available. Bring your lesson plans! Part of this workshop will be lesson development around what you've learned. **March 1st**

SMART 2: Learn how to use SMART Notebook 10 software, specifically going over the available tools, inserting and using clipart, web addresses, & links to files and videos. Bring your lesson plans. **March 15th**

SMART 3 (Smart 2.0): In this session we will look at Web 2.0 tools that work really well with SMART Board integration. While we'll be looking at tools to inspire and motivate, we'll also explore easier ways to find relevant content to use with the Board. **March 22nd**

SMART 4 (Work Time!): This session will be devoted to work time with an instructor to assist. Use this time to create lessons using the SMART Board that you can actually use in your classrooms. **March 29th**

GET CONNECTED: Digital Professional Learning Networks with Mike Fisher

Technology is making it easier to "bridge the gaps" between teachers and making geographical location inconsequential to the ability to share, collaborate, organize, create and network. In this 2-part series participants will be introduced to several connective technologies such as NING, Blogs, Wikis, Twitter, etc to expand your professional development opps.

Feb 9th and Feb 23rd, 4pm-7pm (6 hours)

REGENTS MATH HELP—Tips for Student Success on Regents using TI Graphing Calculators (FREE!)

Unlock the power of the graphing calculators for your students on State Regents Exams. Learn proven test taking strategies for the TI-83/84 Plus graphing calculators and TI-Nspire handhelds. Increase student confidence and raise scores on high stakes exams.



Date: **Jan 11th, 4pm-6pm**

Audience: Regents level

Instructor: Dana Morse

*TI-83 calculators available for loan.

My Teacher Pages: An Intro to Classroom Web Pages

Explore My Teacher Pages and begin to create your own classroom Web site. Learn how to upload pictures, videos and files; create classroom Blogs and many other features.

Dates: **January 26th and Feb 2nd (6 hrs)**

Time: **5pm-8pm** (Light dinner included)

Instructor: Daniel Mault

Geo-WHAT?: Learning GPS w/Brian Scully

What is geocaching and how can you use this activity in your classrooms? Introduce your students to the sport of geocaching through engaging academic lessons. Hands-on workshop will demonstrate their use. (eTrex GPS units available for loan) **April 27th, 4-7pm**

Get "Clicking" in your Class w/Brian Scully

Learn basic operations of the eInstruction classroom response system. This cool tool offers a powerful way to motivate & engage students while receiving instant feedback. (Classroom set of 32 available for loan.)

March 8th (3 hrs), 4-7pm

Improve your 21st Technology Skills with Roger Carroll! Using Video in the Classroom

Learn how to incorporate video into your lessons and the basics of Microsoft MovieMaker and other editing tools. Hands-on practice to create your own movies.

Feb 24th and March 3rd; 4pm-7pm (6 hours)

"Getting' Digi With It"—Microsoft PhotoStory Basics

Learn the basic elements of digital story telling using Photo Story 3, a free download. This simple and powerful program brings to life still photographs. Bring photos & create your first digi-book! **March 10th, 4-7pm**

Cool Tools for 21st Century Teaching & Learning

See how to use the engaging resources of BLOGS, wikis, podcasts and other tools to improve students' communication skills and keep your class interested in reading/writing! **March 24th, 4pm-7pm**

Tier One Differentiated Strategies—NEW!!

This is an introduction to in-class strategies for students needing behavioral and/or academic interventions in order to succeed. This workshop will include differentiated instructional strategies and engagement strategies to help students learn within multiple modalities, both traditionally and thru technology.

Date: **April 7th (3 hours), 4pm-7pm**

Instructor: Mike Fisher

Workshops from The Spotlight Group with Jon Gatto

All workshops are from 4pm-7pm.

De-escalating Potentially Violent Students

This course gives the participants the tools necessary to understand a situation involving an agitated individual, keep it from turning violent and calm the situation instead. **May 24th and 26th (6 hours)**

30 Tips to a More Successful Parent Conference

Communicating with parents is the second most important thing we do as teachers. When we can work together with a child's parents toward common goals, we improve the atmosphere for learning. This course will cover 30 proven tips to improve the encounter.

March 16th (3 hours)

Developing and Using Moral Compass

We give our students subject knowledge everyday, but are we helping them make good decisions from that knowledge? This course will cover the skills and materials necessary to help teachers develop their student's rudders. **Jan 26th and 28th (6 hours)**

Brain Gym Series

Brain Gym 101: (\$25 Fee) Experience whole brain integration through whole body movement. Learn 26 Brain Gym exercises, the Edu-K Balance process and Dennison Laterality Re-patterning.

Brain Gym and Yoga: A Perfect Union (\$10 Fee) Brain Gym 101 is PRE-Requisite! Combine the ancient wisdom of yoga with the recent study of the brain through Brain Gym. Yoga class included!

Dates: **101: 2/9, 2/23, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25; 4pm-8pm (24 hours)**

Yoga: May 13th; 4-8pm (4 hours)

Audience: K-12 (more suited for younger ages)

Instructor: Kate Gagola of *Balance Associates*

Grant Writing with Joan Forman—all are 4pm-7pm

Searching for Grants On-line

Success in grant writing depends largely upon finding the right sources to target. Maximize your time on-line by learning what tools and resources are available to you on the Internet. Identify foundation, corporate and gov't prospects. **April 13th (3 hours)**

Introduction to Grant Writing

This workshop focuses on the importance of planning & improving writing skills & research techniques. Learn essentials of preparing applications. Includes extensive hand-outs, do's & don'ts, and samples of good & bad.

March 24th (3 hours)

Creating Writers Through the 6+1 Traits of Writing (5 part series—15 hours)

Would you like to improve the quality of your students' writing and the quality of your writing instruction? This workshop will show you how to systematically teach your students the six traits of Idea Development, Voice, Word Choice, Organization, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions; all of which are rated on the New York State Assessments, including the ELA. Specific lesson plans and ideas on using the 6+1 model in the classroom writing workshop, and across the curriculum, will be demonstrated.

Dates: **March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 (15 hours)**

Time: 4pm-7pm (Refreshments included)

Audience: K-12

Instructor: Heidi Clark, certified trainer

Advanced Foldables (Brainigami) - NEW techniques!

This workshop will feature more of the Hands-On Organizers to help students chunk and remember information. These graphic organizers are a little more intricate, but a lot more engaging for your students.

Date: **April 28th, 4pm-7pm (3 hours)**

Audience: K-12

Instructor: Mike Fisher

Literacy Links: A Comprehensive Plan to Improve Reading (4 part series - 8 hours)

Participants will investigate various methods, tools, & strategies to increase student reading achievement. Each participant will take home a template and specific lessons to teach the 7 habits of an effective reader. This will be a collaborative, interactive hands-on course to motivate students to become readers!

Dates: **2/11, 2/25, 3/4, & 3/18 (8 hours)**

Time: 4pm-6pm (Refreshments included)

Audience: K-8, SE, reading specialists

Instructor: Rene Brock

Shake Them Poetry Bones

Participants will receive a chapbook of original poems for classroom use: poems designed to spark learning and lead to new poems written by students. Formulas for building poems will be explored, with extension ideas for hall displays, take-homes & special events.

Dates: **Feb 6th and March 6th (15 hours)**

Time: 8am-3:30pm (Lunch included)

Audience: 4-12

Instructor: Susan Peters

Workshops for Teachers, Parents and the Community

School Safety

The Truth About Prescription Drugs—Become familiar with common prescription drugs that are used by students and the signs that someone is under their influence. **March 9th, 4pm-6pm FREE for ALL!**

Gangs in Schools and in Your Town—Discuss the types of gangs that exist and how kids get involved in this type of activity. The use of graffiti and how to spot potential gang members will also be discussed. **March 23rd, 4pm-6pm FREE for ALL!**

Call the center to register, 800-836-7510 x3758

Understanding Alzheimer's & Its Impact on Families

The effects of Alzheimer's disease are felt by more than just the person diagnosed with the disease. Family is affected as well. This program provides an in-depth look at dementia and Alzheimer's disease, including the symptoms and stages. How the disease impacts the lives of family members, especially youth, will be explored and discussed, as well as how you can better identify with the experiences of a youth caregiver. **Call our office to register. 1-800-836-7510 X3758**

January 25th, 5pm-8pm FREE WORKSHOP plus PIZZA!

SPECIAL!!! - UNDERSTANDING THE HOLOCAUST



In this workshop, participants will learn about The Holocaust Resource Center and its' resources for students and teachers, historical background of Christian anti-semitism, moral issues and the problem of evil; sample lessons from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; how to prepare for survivor testimony; survivor testimony; social Studies curriculum connections; Darfur; genocide and a focus on "never again." The last session will be a sharing of lessons from all the participants. **\$10 Fee**

Dates: 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25 & 4/8; 4-7pm (15 hours)

Collaboration with NYSERDA—GET ENERGY SMART!

Today's energy crisis shows us that energy education should be woven into every subject area. To achieve this, NYSERDA is offering the **Energy Smart Students Program** which familiarizes teachers with ways to raise the level of students' knowledge of energy efficiency and its impact on the environment. Workshops are open to all K-12 educators. Receive \$100 worth of NYSED aligned curriculum & classroom materials, 6 hours of PD, *Energy Smart* newsletters & online resources. Visit www.GetEnergySmart.org for more info. Watch for workshops coming soon....**FREE!**

Collaboration with NYSUT ELT Program

Cyber Bullying: The New Age of Harassment (at O-N Teacher Center)

Advances in technology have radically changed with our students of today. While there are many advantages of our technology age, cyber bullying has emerged and become a growing concern for children, schools, and families. Participants will explore the concept of cyber bullying and discuss its impact upon teaching and learning, as well as be able to apply strategies and solutions in the classroom. Contact Rene Brock for information! Rbrock@nwcsd.org

You must register through NYSUT ELT program website. www.nysut.org/elt

Cost is \$645 for 3 graduate credits or \$375 for in-service credit.

Policy Board

Albion:

Sally Schmidt—Counselor

Barker:

Wendy Pellow—Teacher

Lewiston-Porter:

Anna Lewis—Teacher

Chris Roser—Superintendent

Lockport:

David Lowrey—Teacher/Vice-Chair

Lyndonville:

Laurel Pitzrick—Teacher

Medina:

Julie Webber—Teacher

Mark Kruzynski—Principal

Newfane:

Annette Allis—Teacher

NCCC:

Michele Mistriner—Professor

Niagara University:

Patricia Wrobel—Assistant Dean

Niagara-Wheatfield:

Adena Sexton—Teacher

Non-Public *:

Kelly Roberts—Teacher, DeSales

North Tonawanda:

Gerry Cindric—Teacher

Greg Woytila—Curriculum Council Rep

Orleans/Niagara BOCES:

Becky Wilson—Teacher

Mickey Edwards—LEA Administrator

Roy-Hart:

Kathleen Good—Teacher

Starpoint:

Sallie Connor—Teacher

Wilson:

Mary Moley-Palacios—Teacher/Chair

Business Rep:

Dr. Stephen Adorian, CCS, Inc.

Parent:

Vacant

*Non - Public Schools Include:

Catholic Academy of NF (N. Falls)

Christian Academy of WNY (Lockport)

DeSales Catholic (Lockport)

Henrietta G. Lewis School (Lockport)

Holy Ghost Lutheran (Niagara Falls)

Niagara Catholic (Niagara Falls)

North Tonawanda Catholic

Sacred Heart Villa (Lewiston)

St. John Lutheran (North Tonawanda)

St. Matthew Lutheran (N. Tonawanda)

St. Paul Lutheran (North Tonawanda)

St. Peter Lutheran (Lockport)

St. Peter R.C. School (Lewiston)

St. Peter Lutheran (Sanborn)

Stella Niagara Education Park