

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS NEWSLETTER – March 2008

NEWS

Welcome to the March newsletter for Ambassadors. I know it is almost April but there are two weeks of school holidays coming up so I will squeeze this in before teachers go off on holiday! If you are volunteering for any activities please let me know before the end of this week so I can contact the teachers concerned.

Our SEAS and Teacher event on 4th March was very well attended and thank you to all of you who managed to come along. We have received very positive feedback from the event and SEAS, teachers and STEM Providers all found it to be worthwhile. It is always useful for organisations to come together and be aware of each other's projects and activities and find out ways of working together to promote the STEM subjects in schools. Congratulations to the 4 Ambassadors, Gillian Adam, David McDove, Rebecca Sowden and Susan Turnbull who received STEMNET Ambassador Awards at the event in recognition for their efforts.



SEAs experimenting in the Lab in a Lorry

National Science and Engineering Week is now over but thank you to all Ambassadors who volunteered – either to run their own event or provide assistance and help at other events. We had over 30 Ambassadors helping at events and organisers pass on their thanks to you for this.

There are many school challenges and competitions which will be reaching their peak over the next few weeks and the Finals of these will be held in May and June. We have the dates now for the K'NEX Challenge Finals so please consult the list overleaf and see if you can offer to help to be a judge. Dates for other competitions will be posted on the website www.setpointscotlandseas.org.uk as they are confirmed.

Congratulations to Rebecca Sowden!

We are delighted that one of our West of Scotland Ambassadors, Rebecca Sowden, was awarded the Support and Development Award at the recent STEMNET ceremony in London. Congratulations Rebecca! For 2 years in a row, an Ambassador from our region has won this award so this must mean we have great Ambassadors here! Rebecca was nominated by teacher Jess Cooke from Lenzie Academy and Jess accompanied Rebecca to London to see her receive her award. In support of the Award, Jess says "Of all the projects Rebecca has pioneered I think her People & Medicine initiative is the most inspiring. It evolved through her leadership of staff and pupils, and over several months has resulted in curriculum ideas which can easily be tried by non-specialist teachers in both upper primary and secondary science classes."

Well done Rebecca and let's hope it inspires more of our Ambassadors in the West to work towards an Award like this.



Rebecca (left) with other Awards winners

SEAs update, March 08

SETPPOINT Scotland, Kelvin Building, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ. Tel: 0141 330 5370.

NB: You are receiving this mailing/email as we have your details on our SEAS database. We only use your details for SEAS administration and operations, they will not be shared with any third parties.

St Clare's Primary, Drumchapel

A Coach in Active Learning, based at St' Clare's Primary School has prepared a 'Toys' topic with an Active Learning emphasis for use in all Glasgow primary schools at P2 level. The Toys topic will be piloted in 5 West of Glasgow Schools in late April/May. At present the topic has been developed, and the coach has requested an ambassador to assist in its delivery throughout the pilot schools.

If you are interested in being involved with this project, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Coach.

Harestanes Primary, Kirkintilloch

Harestanes Primary has recently started a new Young Engineers Club and is seeking the assistance of an engineer. If you are able to help on a regular basis, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the school.

St Mary's Primary, Greenock

St Mary's Primary has recently taken delivery of some K'NEX kit and need help! They have very little experience of K'NEX and would value an Ambassador's input to help them develop their skills in using the kits and understanding design challenges. The Ambassador could take them through the K'NEX Classroom Workshop (see www.setpointscotlandseas.org.uk/challengedownloads.htm for workshop material) and then set a mini-challenge to the class.

If you are able to help, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the school

Glasgow University Science Festival

This is the second year of this exciting science, arts and learning festival based at the University of Glasgow. A huge range of lively and interactive activities is available and this **free** festival starts with a public lectures series in April, which continues on through to June. Lectures will be held every Thursday evening and have intriguing titles such as "Putting microbes to work - from the pristine Arctic to the slums of Bangladesh" and "How to see through clothes: Superhuman vision- seeing with terahertz". Ambassadors are more than welcome to attend these lectures.

There is also a massive free summer schools programme (June 2nd - June 13th) and 2 family fun activity days in the Hunterian Museum on Sat June 7th and June 15th.

For more information on the festival, lectures, events, dates and how to book please see www.glasgowsciencefestival.org.uk

If you would like to volunteer to help at either of the Family days in June please contact me.



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AMBASSADOR REQUESTS

Please see below schools that have requested Ambassadors. If you are able to help please contact me as soon as possible.

SCHOOLS REQUIRING AMBASSADORS	AREA	HELP REQUIRED
St Mary's Primary, Greenock	Inverclyde	Help with K'Nex in general. Have little experience and would like to make better use of the resources they have.
Harestanes Primary	Kirkintilloch	Help with starting a new Young Engineers Club
St Clare's Primary, Drumchapel but other 5 schools in Glasgow	Glasgow	Help with delivery of P2 Toys Topic.

EVENTS REQUIRING AMBASSADORS	DATE	HELP REQUIRED
Institute of Physics – Lab in a Lorry See schools below:		3 – 4 Ambassadors a day required to help with experiments
Linwood High School, Renfrewshire	May (date tbc)	Lab in a Lorry
Park Mains High School, Renfrewshire	May (date tbc)	Lab in a Lorry
St Andrew's Academy, Renfrewshire	May (date tbc)	Lab in a Lorry
Barrhead High School, East Renfrewshire	May (date tbc)	Lab in a Lorry
St Luke's High School, East Renfrewshire	May (date tbc)	Lab in a Lorry
KNEX AREA FINALS – see below		
Ayrshire Final - Loudon Castle, Galston	20th May	Judges required
Glasgow Final - Glasgow College of Nautical Studies	21st May	Judges required
Lanarkshire Final - Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride	29th May	Judges required
Dumfries and Galloway Final	14 th May	NO judges are required for this but if you wish to attend please contact me

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INDUCTION TRAINING

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 22nd April at 3:00pm** in the University of Glasgow (**please note change of date from 1st April**). If you would like to register for this induction please email or call me and I will reserve a place for you. The training will last around 1.5 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also.

Date of next training is 3rd June at 3pm

DISCLOSURES

Remember that Ambassadors **MUST** have a valid disclosure to work as an Ambassador. You are not covered by STEMNET insurance if you do have a valid disclosure. Disclosures are valid for 3 years so if yours has expired, or nearing its renewal date, please contact me to arrange to get a new disclosure processed. At the end of April we will be undertaking an administration check of all Ambassadors and those without a valid disclosure will be requested to complete a check or be removed from the SEAS program.

If you wish to volunteer for any of the activities or schools listed please contact me as below.

Remember to keep looking at our website www.setpointscotlandseas.org.uk for updated activities

Regards

Aileen

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