

Welcome to the March newsletter for STEM Ambassadors after a very busy February! Thank you to all the Ambassadors who volunteered to help with the requests in last month's newsletter – we managed to fulfil all but a few schools so that is fantastic news!

We have two important events happening this month – the STEMNET Ambassador Awards Ceremony on 23rd March in Edinburgh and the STEM Ambassador Celebration Event on 30th March in Glasgow. Good luck to all the Ambassadors who have been nominated for an Award on the 23rd and let's hope we can bring home some awards for the West of Scotland! The Ceremony normally takes place in London, but STEMNET is bringing it North for the first time and recognises the impact STEM Ambassadors are having in Scotland. Our Celebration Event, the following week, is a great opportunity for Ambassadors and Teachers to meet and share ideas, find out more about activities that are available and hear presentations from those who are involved – see below for more details.

Annual Celebration Event for Ambassadors and Teachers

By now you will have received an invitation for our annual STEM Ambassador Celebration Event. Places are filling up fast so please register soon with Alan, a.kerr@physics.gla.ac.uk to make sure you can attend.

We have over 22 organizations confirmed already, such as Institute of Physics, Glasgow Science Centre, British Geological Survey, Construction Skills, Young Engineers and Science Clubs, Fun Maths Roadshow, Nuffield Bursaries, Crest Awards as well as Ambassadors who are demonstrating activities they can provide.



If you have a particular activity that you take to schools and think that other Ambassadors would benefit from using this activity, please let us know and we would be delighted for you to be included in our "hands-on" area of the event.

REQUESTS for HELP

The following requests have been made by schools and organisations. **If you can help please email us at ambassadors@physics.gla.ac.uk or phone on 0141 330 6396** and we can liaise with the school on your behalf. The top two are urgent requests so please see if you can help out!

SCHOOL / EVENT	DATE	REQUEST
Bothwell Primary, Hamilton	8 th -11 th March	Talk about any type of STEM related career to pupils
Burnside Primary, Rutherglen	As soon as possible	Talk on Rainforests and the Environment, also Thinking Science/
Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld	16 th March	Ambassador required to judge at Science Fair.
Knightswood Primary, Glasgow	19 th March (morning)	Looking for 2 or 3 Ambassadors to help with P6 KNEX Classroom workshop and Challenge
St Peter the Apostle High School, Clydebank	23 rd March , am or pm	Help with Business Dynamics event involving communication skills and problem solving
Killermont Primary, Bearsden	25 th March	Help with KNEX Challenge – this one will be run by Science Connects and you are welcome to observe
Craighead Primary, Milton of Campsie	As soon as possible	Help with KNEX Challenge
Colquhoun Park Primary, Bearsden	As soon as possible	Help with KNEX Challenge
Baljaffray primary, Bearsden	As soon as possible	Help with many classes, see below
Clober Primary, Milngavie	As soon as possible	Help with many class topics, see in detail section
Paisley Grammar and its associated Primaries	As soon as possible	Looking for help with new S1 after school science club, as well as help with P7 classes running science clubs
Knightswood Secondary and its associated Primaries	As soon as possible	Looking for help with new S1 after school science club, as well as help with P7 classes running science clubs
Bannerman High School and its associated Primaries	As soon as possible	Looking for help with new S1 after school science club, as well as help with P7 classes running science clubs
Glencoats Primary, Paisley	As soon as possible	Help with KNEX as well as National Science and Engineering Week
Killermont Primary, Bearsden	Anytime in Term 4, April-June	P6-7 Help with activities relating to Earth in Space.
Gateside Primary, Beith	April 26th, 27th or 28th.	Help with P1/2 "in the Kitchen" topic to cover Forces.
Gleniffer High School	28 th April	Careers event for S3 pupils
Queen's Park Secondary.	21 st May	Helpers needed for a schools pond

Glasgow		dipping exercise.
Hutcheson's Grammar School, Glasgow	May	Looking for advice/inspiration for a Biology/Maths Day from anyone who has worked with bees.
Kirkintilloch High School	2 nd or 3 rd June	Help with Business Dynamics event involving communication skills and problem solving
Big Bang Scotland, Dundee	7 th June	Engineering / Technology Judges required for various Finals at the Big Bang
Lenzie Academy	10 th or 11 th June	Help with Business Dynamics event involving communication skills and problem solving
Boclair Academy	15 th June	Help with Business Dynamics event involving communication skills and problem solving

Bothwell Primary, Hamilton

Bothwell Primary is looking for Ambassadors to do career talks next week, Monday to Thursday (8th-11th March), **so it is very short notice on this one**. All types of Ambassadors are welcome and the talk can be any type of job, eg engineers, scientists etc. Note that Bothwell Primary has decanted to a spare school in centre of Hamilton at the moment!

If you can help out please phone our office on 0141 330 6396 to let us know and we will contact the organiser.

Burnside Primary, Rutherglen

Burnside Primary P6 class is covering Rainforests and the Environment this term and would appreciate any help concerning this topic. If you can provide any assistance, be it a talk or a hands on activity, please let us know. This request was again in last month's newsletter and the school is **VERY keen** to get an Ambassador before this current term ends.

The schools is also looking undertaking a topic called "Thinking Science" which is looking at classification and variables etc but there is not a lot within these lessons which would catch the children's imagination so I hoped you could maybe link us up with someone who might be able to see a way to making these lessons more child friendly

Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld

Greenfaulds High School in Cumbernauld is hosting a science fair for National Science and Engineering Week on 16th March. They would like to have Ambassadors to help judge projects at the science fair. If you can help out please let us know as soon as possible, due to timing.

Business Dynamics Events inc. St Peter the Apostle High School

Business Dynamics will be running a Core Skills event at St Peter the Apostle High School in Clydebank on 23rd March. There are two sessions, one morning and one afternoon so you can volunteer to do one or both sessions. This is an S3 event where Business Dynamics provide the activity – the ambassador has no preparation to do.

The Core skills all interlink (Working with Others, Communication Skills and Problem Solving) so it doesn't really matter which activity is given to which Ambassador.

Business Dynamics will also be running **similar events** at:

- Kirkintilloch High 2nd or 3rd June
- Lenzie Academy 10th or 11th June
- Boclair Academy Bearsden 15th June

If you are able to help out with any of the events please let us know.

Business Dynamics would be pleased to host a training session for Ambassadors who are keen to help with these events but want to know more before volunteering. If you are interested in attending a training event please let us know so we can assess numbers and arrange a date.

KNEX Challenge 2010

The KNEX Challenge has kicked off again for 2010 and application forms went out to schools in December. We are already receiving requests from schools for Ambassadors to help. Help can be in the form of running a classroom workshop or judging a challenge. Classroom worksheets are available on our website at <http://www.scienceconnects.org.uk/knex.htm> so please have a look and find out how easy it is to be involved.



Currently the schools looking for help are:

- Craighead Primary, Milton of Campsie
- Killermont Primary, Bearsden
- Knightswood Primary, Glasgow – have one Ambassador already for this but another would be a help
- Colquhoun Park Primary, Bearsden
- Inverclyde Area Final Judging – 11th May (Enterprise Centre in Port Glasgow)

A member of the Science Connects team is running the KNEX Classroom Workshop and Challenge at **Killermont Primary in Bearsden on 25th March, from 9am – 12:15am**. If you would like to come along and observe how a workshop and challenge is run in a school, and then help be a judge you are welcome to come along. A great opportunity to see it all in action, without the responsibility!

Baljaffray Primary, Bearsden

Baljaffray Primary would Like Ambassador help with the following topics:

P1 ~ Materials
P2 ~ Electricity & Pushing and Pulling
P3/4 ~ Dissolving
P5 ~ Endangered Species
P6 ~ Space Exploration
P7 ~ Rock formation/ Earth's materials

If you can help them out please let us know.

Clober Primary, Milngavie

Clober Primary is very interested in the Ambassador Programme and has had a very successful visit from an Ambassador last term.

This term they would like Ambassadors to provide talks or workshops on the following topics :

P1 - Understanding Earth and Space - Planets
P2 - Understanding Earth and Space - Stars and Constellations
P4 - Gases, Solids and Liquids
P5 - Solar System - Earth, Sun and Planets. Dealing with temperature, position and atmosphere.
P6 - Understanding Energy - Electrical and Sound
P7 - Understanding Energy - Gravity and Weight
If you can help with any of the above topics please let us know.

Science Clubs at Bannerman, Paisley Grammar and Knightswood

The Glasgow Science Festival team is currently running a new Science Club project with Bannerman, Paisley Grammar and Knightswood Secondary schools. There are also clubs running in the associated primaries of these schools.

The Clubs run for 10 weeks and use experiments provided by the Glasgow Science Festival team. All clubs would appreciate the help of an Ambassador; it doesn't have to be every week but at least one visit during the 10 weeks would be a boost to the club.

If you would like more information or volunteer to help please get in touch with us.

Glencoats Primary in Paisley

Glencoats Primary is looking for Ambassador help with their KNEX Challenge. They are also looking for help with National Science and Engineering Week activities and ideas for a challenge, workshops etc. We already have one Ambassador volunteered to help but if you want to help also it would be great.

Gateside Primary, Beith

Gateside Primary in Beith has not used STEM Ambassadors before and we received this request via the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce which is keen to link schools with industry/academia in Ayrshire. The P1/2 class is covering the topic of "In the Kitchen" this term and would like to include some work on Forces within this topic. Time to get your thinking cap on and see how you can link the two! This request was in last month's newsletter and the school has moved the

request to a later date of April 26th, 27th or 28th to ensure they get an Ambassador.

Gleniffer High School, Paisley

Gleniffer High is holding their annual Careers Event (Skills for Work) for S3 pupils from 8.30am to 12.30pm on 28th April 2010. Ambassadors will work small groups of pupils talking about the skills involved in their career and then help to lead pupils through 3 fun activities. The onus is on the pupils to be creative. Lunch is provided! If you would like to volunteer please let us know.

Queen's Park Secondary, Glasgow

Ambassadors are needed for Queen's Park pond dipping exercise. Information will be provided so no experience necessary.

Please contact us if you would like to be part of this.

Other information of interest to Ambassadors...

The Big Bang Scotland – would you like to be a Judge?

The Big Bang Scotland is happening on the 7th of June at the University of Abertay, Dundee. Students aged 11-18 from all over Scotland (in teams or individually) can bring STEM projects along to compete for prizes. Scotland's Big Bang Fair incorporates the CREST and Young Engineers for Britain regional competitions, but any other projects, such as STEM Clubs, are also eligible to enter in any field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Our STEMPOINT contract holder in the North East of Scotland, TechFest-SetPoint, is organising the event and is looking for enthusiastic STEM Ambassadors who would like to spare their time and knowledge to help judge engineering projects at Big Bang Scotland on Monday 7th June 2010.

As this event is the first of its kind in Scotland, we would like to have each Stempoint Area in Scotland represented on the day. It would be fantastic to have engineering judges from all areas of Scotland and TechFest-SetPoint is hoping to recruit approx 20 Ambassadors for this event.

If you are working with a school on a project which you think may be eligible to take part in this event, please contact us and we will put you in touch with TechFest-SetPoint.




Induction Training

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 23rd February at 3:00pm** in the University of Glasgow. If you would like to register for this induction please email or call us and we will reserve a place for you. The training will last around 2 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also. The next training after this will be Tuesday 27th April 2009 at 3pm.

If you have many employees at your place of work who are interested in becoming Ambassadors we can organise for induction training to be delivered on-site. We require a minimum of 10 people for this training however. Please get in touch if you are interested in discussing this.

Thank you once again for all your efforts and please take a good look at the requests on offer and see where you can help out. Please remember to record your activity at www.stemnet.org.uk!!

Regards



Science Connects Operations Manager