

## Reaching Out to Administrators

Welcome to the first issue of “Know Science”. NCOSP, ESD114, ESD189, and Washington State LASER have joined forces to support science education in all the schools and districts in the ESD189 and ESD114 region. Together we can provide support for administrators and teachers as they help all students succeed in science and meet standards. This monthly newsletter is just one service we provide. Through it we hope to do three things:

- (1) Explore the role of Administrators in supporting and enacting science education programs;
- (2) Foster communication and collaboration between Administrators and Teacher Leaders to improve science teaching and learning in every building;
- (3) Raise awareness of NCOSP, ESD114, ESD189, and LASER resources, events, and data available to districts throughout the region.

Each issue will have some common features designed to achieve those goals. In this space you’ll find highlights of upcoming activities, recent research

findings, or results from project evaluation that are important to administrators and teachers as they support science teaching. You’ll also find two “Case Studies” where administrators from the region submit stories of their work with teacher leaders so we can learn from one another. These cases also provide great conversation starters for thinking with your Teacher Leaders. We’ll also share some important data that underscore the importance of our reform efforts in science as reminders of why this work is so critical. On the reverse you’ll find a calendar of upcoming events and key contact information so that you can take advantage of the wealth of programs and services available to you.

We hope this communication supports you in your role as an administrator. We welcome your comments and suggestions to inform future issues, programs, or services.

### WASL Ready?

**On average,  
just 16  
minutes  
each day is  
spent on  
science in  
the nation’s  
public K-6  
classrooms.**

*-Rising  
Above the  
Gathering  
Storm*

### Bremerton Elementary Schools

As the District Principal responsible for the Elementary Science Program, Lyle Burbidge worked to establish monthly grade level team meetings that focus on implementing their NCOSP District Action Plan. They are sharing the FOSS Kit deep Alignment work, currently posted on OESD 114 Science Website, with all K-5 teachers. Teachers are becoming more aware of the GLEs addressed by each kit. They are using this work to help guide next steps toward curriculum mapping and the creation of common classroom based assessments.

Through some additional funding from the OESD 114 LASER grant Lyle is working to provide an additional 6 hours of training on kit alignment, curriculum mapping, and classroom based assessments for NCOSP Teacher Leaders. He feels they’re making great progress toward Science reform this year.

#### Questions to Consider

- ❖ What role are you playing in supporting your NCOSP District Action Plan?
- ❖ How are you helping teachers translate their understanding of the GLEs to changes in classroom practice?
- ❖ How are you finding additional professional development opportunities to support all elementary teachers in their competence and confidence in teaching science?

### Nooksack Valley Elementary Schools

As Principal at Nooksack Elementary where 80% of her 5<sup>th</sup> graders met standard on the science WASL in 2006, Marion Evenson has only high praise for the NCOSP Teacher Leaders in her district. Marion said the growth in these teachers’ leadership skills has been instrumental in improving the science program not only in her building, but in the other buildings in the Nooksack Valley School District.

From an Administrator’s point of view, Marion said, “without the combined support of NCOSP, LASER, and her Whatcom County colleagues, I couldn’t do the planning or see the vision so clearly for science in our school. NCOSP has really put science in the forefront. Without it, the other curriculum content areas would get more of the primary focus. The NCOSP Teacher Leaders are necessary for us to continue improving in science.”

#### Questions to Consider

- ❖ How are you applying the leadership skills of your Teacher Leaders to support other teachers?
- ❖ How are you making time for science in the busy elementary curriculum?
- ❖ How are you interacting with neighboring districts to benefit from their experiences and share your own?



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## Calendar of upcoming events

- Nov 20 Integrating FOSS science and TERC Investigations math - Bellingham School District Board Room 8:30-4:00 (ESD189)
- Nov 22 Initial Use Training FOSS and STC - Harmony Elementary, Mt Baker School District, 8:30-4:00 (ESD189)
- Nov 27 NCOSP Summer Professional Development Planning Focus Group, Lakeway Inn, 4:00-5:00 (NCOSP)
- Nov 28 NCOSP Summer Professional Development Planning Focus Group, Mount Vernon Transportation Facility, 4:00-5:00 (NCOSP)
- Nov 29 NCOSP Summer Professional Development Planning Focus Group, Chimacum High School Library, 4:00-5:00 (NCOSP)
- Dec 1 Applications for LASER Instructional Materials Showcase Due (LASER)
- Dec 1 NCOSP Learning Community Forum, Peninsula Location TBD, 9:00 - 3:00 (NCOSP)
- Dec 4 STC Earth and Space Initial Use Training, Mt Baker School District (ESD189)
- Dec 8 NCOSP Learning Community Forum, TBD, 9:00 - 3:00, (NCOSP)
- Dec 11 PCA Training, Ferndale SD, 5:30 - 8:30 (ESD189)

## Featured attraction

NCOSP launched a new website to support the use of science notebooks. Go to [www.sciencenotebooks.org](http://www.sciencenotebooks.org) to learn more.