



# The Torch

Newsletter of the Nyack Teacher Center

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## NTC Policy Board

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**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**

## MiniGrant Awards Announced

Congratulations to the following recipients of NTC MiniGrants:

**Jennifer Bell** (Middle School) *Second Language Immersion Saturdays* To engage middle school students in a foreign language immersion experience.

**Donnette Darling & Christina Hennessy** (Middle School) *The Continuum Newspaper* To increase student involvement in, and control of, the development of the middle school's news magazine, "The Continuum"

**Dorothy Edelstein, Jacqueline Mahan & Joe Fusaro** (Upper Nyack & Valley Cottage) *Reading, Writing & Talking About Art* To help students learn to articulate their thoughts about art and the act of creating, thereby preparing them to more fully comprehend, analyze and apply what they learn in art, and to help others more fully experience it.

**Anne Oakley** (Valley Cottage) *Bully Prevention Education* - To develop a series of workshops for children and teachers on what bullying looks like, how not to be a bully, how not to be a victim, and what to do if bullying happens to you.

**Karen Andreasen, Linda Cardinali, Robin Cohen, Sandra Connelly, Peggy DeSimone, Trish Doherty, Lois Esmay, Diane Frank, Linda Gabriele, Joan Golden, Jim Grasso, Anne Jacobs, Shelley Karlen, Debbie Links, Lisa Madden, Marty McCabe, Annie Mills, George Mrsich, Carol Napiorski, Marjan Perry, Donna Ramundo, Ellen Rechenberger, Jen Rhee, Carol Russell, Irene Schlanger, Marissa Steinberg, Merry Street, Diane Smith, Colette Tikton & Frankie White** (Liberty) *Where Do We Go From Here?* Study Group focused on creating a more fluid and consistent reading strategies continuum across the grade levels.

**Helen Davies, Susan Goss, Wendy Gottlieb, Monika Hankinson, Adrienne Holmes, Diane Koteen, Pamela Lima, Linda Marino, Beth Murray, & Karen Schneider** (Valley Cottage) *Developing Reading Fluency and Building Stamina* Study Group focused on strategies for developing fluency and building stamina in young readers.

## Call for MiniGrant Proposals

If you have an idea for an innovative project you'd like to develop for your class, or if you would like to participate in a study group with some of your colleagues, consider applying for an NTC MiniGrant. We are currently accepting applications for the final round of funding for this school year. **The application deadline is the last Friday in January.** Call the Center or go to our website for an application form.

## Rockland County Science Fair

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Science, Inventions and Technology Exhibition will be held on Sunday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at North Rockland High School. Applications are available in your building, or from the Center. **The registration deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>** or when the 250<sup>th</sup> application is received, whichever comes first. Please encourage your students to register early

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## American Museum of Natural History Resources

*Resources for Learning*, the American Museum of Natural History's Web site for educators, is a collection of activities, articles, evidence and analysis in the areas of anthropology, astronomy, biology, earth science and paleontology. Subject areas can be explored by sub-topic, grade level or resource type. This easy-to-navigate online database of the Museum's scientific and educational materials can be found at [www.amnh.org/education/resources/index.php](http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/index.php).

Right now the Museum is hosting a unique exhibit on Vietnam. This intimate look at the cultural niches of contemporary Vietnam, with its mix of ethnic groups, has proved so popular that it has been extended and will remain on view through March 7.

The Museum has developed an Educator's Guide to this exhibit called Vietnam: Journeys of Mind, Body & Spirit. The guide is organized around major themes in the exhibition, such as journeys through time, journeys of peoples and goods, life journeys through rites of passage such as weddings and funerals, and journeys of deities and heroes as performed and celebrated in traditional village festivals. While designed to help teachers create activities to be used before, during, and after school visits to the museum, some of the resources can stand on their own and could enrich any study of cultures around the world. There are materials to address learning needs at all levels, K-12, and they are tied to the NYS Learning Standards.

## Copyright Laws

Who hasn't copied a newspaper article or an excerpt from a book, downloaded information or a graphic from the internet or taped a clip of a TV program to use in the classroom? Before you do so again, take a few minutes to go to the site listed below. It's important to be informed about the application of copyright laws to education.

Go to: [www.principals.org/services/lowdown101303.cfm](http://www.principals.org/services/lowdown101303.cfm)

## tNc Website

*tNc* (The New Curriculum) website provides a variety of resources for teachers looking to integrate technology effectively into their teaching. Resources include **weekly columns** on practical tech integration ideas, **lesson banks** that specialize in technology and educational use of the Internet, a **teacher utility sites** page that lists resources ranging from tech support to copyright basics, the **Best of the Web** archive which lists sites that have made the *tNc* "Best Of" list over the past three years, links to **educational technology conferences** in our area, and links to **edtech listservs and forums** that will put you in contact with teachers across the nation who are exploring ways to effectively integrate technology into classroom instruction.

*tNc* was started in the spring of 2001 by John Raymond, who has been teaching courses for us for the last few years. Some of the lessons on the website were developed by Nyack teachers in those courses. You can access this free resource at <http://www.newcurriculum.com>