



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Ms. June Teisan, 2007-2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

Update on NTOY selection process

I traveled to DC in early March for a three day interview event that included videotaped question and answer sessions, a meet-and-greet dinner event with the fifteen members of the selection panel, a press conference with all four finalists fielding questions, a keynote presentation by each candidate, and an opportunity to answer questions posed by each panelist. (Brought new meaning to "March Madness" and "The Final Four" let me tell you!) It was a challenging, stressful, exhilarating once-in-a-lifetime privilege; an opportunity to interact with a cadre of top educators from across our country and discuss our common passion: excellence in education! The 2008 National Teacher of the Year will be introduced by President Bush the week of April 27 and all state teachers of the year will be in attendance.

In the Classroom

Our curricular focus is shifting from outer space to a more detailed study of planet Earth, with students exploring atmospheric phenomenon and meteorology. "Monster Storms," a multi-media rich online science and technology experience from National Geographic and The Jason Foundation, will provide an exciting, interactive resource for student discovery of key weather facts and processes.

- My math colleague, Sheree Burns, and I submitted a proposal to the 2008 Chrysler Closing the Technology Gap in Education Award and recently received word that our submission made the first cut (hurray!) and is being passed on to the final level of judging. We hope to receive funds – up to a \$15,000 grand prize! – which would allow us to expand our work training eighth graders as mentors to younger peers in mathematics and technology.

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On the Road

After the flurry of speaking engagements and travel in March, my schedule for April offers something of a respite . . . for now anyway!! I am delighted to have been invited as one of four honorees featured at the Women of Wayne's 42nd Annual Headliner Awards event, hosted at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle Saturday, April 19. Then I will close out the month in Washington, DC at the National Teacher of the Year Recognition Week, during which all state 'TOYs' will receive further training in use of their SMARTboards, spend a day working in partnership with staff behind the scenes at the various Smithsonian museums learning how to access the collections online for classroom use, and attend the gala black-tie event celebrating announcement of the 2008 National Teacher of the Year.