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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



September 24, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Ms. June Teisan, 2007–2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year  
**SUBJECT:** Teacher of the Year Report

**In the Classroom**

Each day brings plenty of excitement in my four sections of seventh grade science. We are exploring an overview of chemistry - setting off explosive geysers of diet pop and breath mints (outside the building of course!) and creating our own mini lava lamps in test tubes using oil, water, and bath tub fizzy tablets - and will be moving on to biology and the study of life cycles with each student designing his or her own mealworm ranch (Howdy Pardner!) and raising a personal patch of plants. My fifth hour class, Multicultural Literature Circles, finds students immersed in books that focus on issues of friendship, race, prejudice, justice, kindness, and growth, giving the seventh and eighth grade participants the fabric of a common story into which they can weave their own experiences in discussion with classmates.

I logon to the internet daily as an eMentor -- I participate in the eMSS program "e-Mentoring for Student Success", an online program pairing veteran educators with novice science teachers in their state. This program is a joint effort between the National Science Foundation and the National Science Teachers Association.

**On the Road**

In October I am scheduled for a number of speaking and service events:

As an invited educator to the Sally Ride Science "Join the Journey" conference in Detroit I will have the opportunity to meet with Barbara Morgan, Mission Specialist and educator astronaut on the recent STS-118 space flight.

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I will host a science excursion for the National Science Teachers Association regional conference in Detroit, guiding visiting educators through the Nature Exploration areas at the University of Michigan - Dearborn campus.

I will present the keynote speech for the Michigan Association of Teachers of Education annual conference. Held in Bay City this year, the theme is "Excellence in Teaching and Learning."