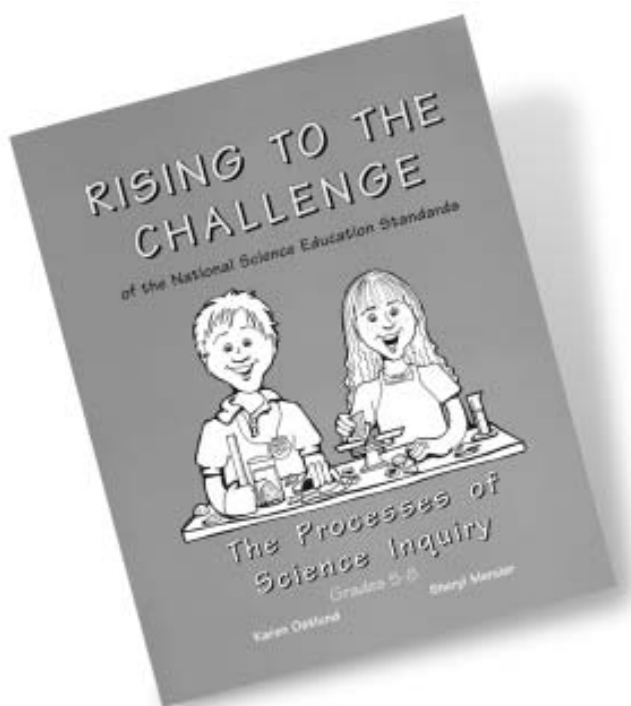




## Friendly Approach Makes Science Standards Accessible to All



*Rising to the Challenge* contains 36 activities designed to help every classroom meet the National Science Education Standards. The guide and accompanying kit are available from Delta.

Even the most stubborn science phobes become eager participants when they open *Rising to the Challenge*, a new collection of activities for grades 5-8 designed to help schools meet the National Science Education Standards. Karen Ostlund and Sheryl Mercier, the book's creators, wanted to provide teachers and students with a fun approach to a serious subject – science as inquiry.

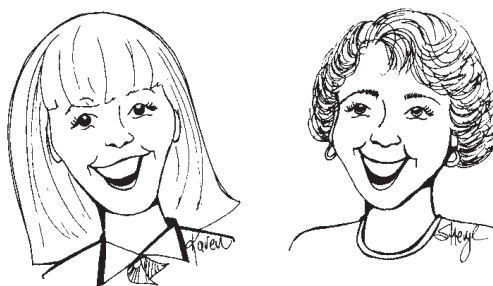
"Learning science is not about learning facts; it's about developing thinking skills," explains Mercier. "Thus, science inquiry is at the core of the Standards. And when students develop higher level thinking skills, they perform better in all subjects."

The authors were inspired to create the book, soon to be followed with a K-4 version, after participating in the development of the Standards: Ostlund in creating

them and Mercier as a reviewer. "We loved the Standards and wanted to help people see their benefit," enthuses Mercier.

Ostlund, who holds a Ph.D. in physics, does most of the writing. Then Mercier, who has been a classroom teacher for 18 years and is an accomplished illustrator, "adjusts the activities so they work in the classroom" and adds her friendly, inviting illustrations to the text. The result is a program that teachers and students at all levels can successfully participate in and enjoy.

"I use these activities with all students, from ESL to gifted. Because it's hands-on, it allows you to just pour vocabulary into ESL students – they probably learn English ten times faster than they would otherwise," explains Mercier. "And gifted kids take the ideas and processes they experience here and run with them. The program is highly adaptable."



*Rising to the Challenge* is the product of Karen Ostlund's science expertise teamed with Sheryl Mercier's practical classroom experience and lively illustrations.

*Rising to the Challenge* activities mostly call for commonly available materials, but the accompanying kit provides the convenience of collecting everything in one place for the teacher. "The kit is rich enough," says Mercier, "that you can use it to leap into math, or language arts, or any other subject. It's a great value."

The *Rising to the Challenge* kit and guide (item no. 80-890-2530, \$498) and guide only (80-490-2534, \$20) are available from Delta. Call 800-258-1302 ext. 714 to order. ■

## Update in a Nutshell



### New "Clusters" Link Related Nutshells

At your request, the highly popular **Science in a Nutshell** product line has been enhanced by the addition of Nutshell Clusters, collections of related Science in a Nutshell mini-kits linked through a comprehensive teacher guide.

"The Nutshells have been such a hit with classroom teachers," explains Claire Boivin, Director of Catalog Product Development, "that they asked us if we could add another dimension to the program. The Clusters add that new dimension."

Each Cluster consists of four or five Nutshell mini-kits collected under a common thematic umbrella. For instance, the **Electricity and Magnetism Cluster** contains *Charge It!*; *Static Electricity*; *Electrical Connections*; *Electromagnetism*; and *Magnet Magic* while the **Simple Machines Cluster** contains *Gears at Work*; *Work: Plane and Simple*; *Clever Levers*; *Pulley Power*; and *Wheels at Work*.



The new **Electricity & Magnetism Nutshell Cluster**, one of two new Nutshell Clusters, includes four mini-kits which can be used to create multiple, thematic science centers in your classroom. The Cluster Guide, available separately, provides the "how-to," assessment activities, reproducibles and much more!

#### Cluster Guides Enrich Nutshells

Included in the guide that accompanies each Cluster are explanations of how to use the Nutshell mini-kits to establish and manage multiple science centers within your classroom, Cluster activity instructions, student record pages, reproducible activity masters, and hands-on assessments for each Nutshell mini-kit and for the Cluster activities. Each Cluster guide also includes 8 1/2" x 11" reproducible masters for all the Activity Guide and Activity Journal pages in each Nutshell.

"The kits were wonderful," enthuses a Cluster field-tester. "When visitors asked the class what subject they liked best they responded in unison (with no prompting) 'Science!'"

... continued on page 4

SCIENCE CORNER  
JANICE VANCLEAVE'S

## "Stow Away" to the South Pole!

This December, students from around the world can join me on an exciting adventure to the last frontier on earth – Antarctica!

I will be traveling with Randy Landsberg, the Education Coordinator from the Center for Astrophysical Research in Antarctica (CARA) at the University of Chicago. Together we will visit the South Pole and attempt to answer such questions as, Which way will a compass needle point? and How will a dipping needle behave? (See activity on page 2.)

Students can participate by sending us questions and experimental ideas about the South Pole via e-mail ([icy@astro.uchicago.edu](mailto:icy@astro.uchicago.edu)), monitoring the project via our Web site (<http://www.southpole.com>), and conducting the same experiments in their classrooms that we will be conducting at the Pole.

Experiments we perform will be based on student submissions. Results from different locations will be compared and posted on the Web, and any effects of being at different latitudes, temperatures, and altitudes will be determined.

Our trip, sponsored by the National Science Foundation to encourage student interest in science and Antarctica, is scheduled for December 7-23.



Janice VanCleave bundles up in anticipation of her upcoming trip to the South Pole, and looks forward to sharing scientific investigations with students around the world via the Internet.

... continued on page 2





**Here's an activity you can try: "Dipper"**

**Problem:** How can you follow the direction of magnetic lines of force around a magnet?

**Materials:** bar magnet  
scissors  
ruler  
sewing thread  
sewing needle

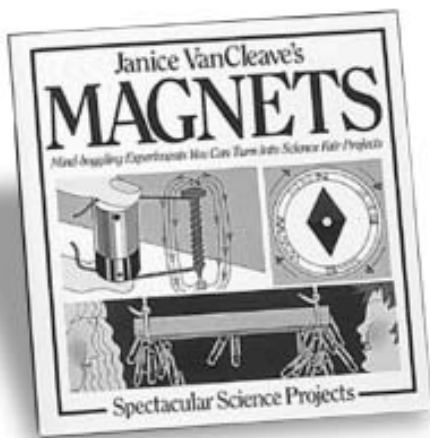
**Procedure:**

1. Lay the magnet on a wooden table.
2. Cut a 1-foot (30-cm) piece of thread and tie the thread to the center of the needle. (Don't put the thread through the eye of the needle.)
3. Hold the free end of the thread with one hand. Slide the needle back and forth until it hangs in a horizontal position (parallel, or level, with the tabletop). *NOTE: A needle mounted on a horizontal axis and allowed to swing in a vertical plane is known as a dipping needle.*
4. Move your arm so that the needle is about 2 inches (5 cm) above the magnet.
5. Slowly move the hanging needle across the magnet, from one end of it to the other.
6. Observe the position of the needle as it travels above the magnet.

**Results:** The needle is vertical (straight up and down) when it hangs above the ends of the magnet; it is horizontal when it is above the center of the magnet, and at various positions between horizontal and vertical as it is moved from the end toward the center of the magnet.

**Why?** The invisible magnetic field around every magnet is made up of lines of force that move out of its north pole and into its south pole. The hanging needle follows these lines of force. Its freedom to move up and down allows it to dip toward the magnet at different places. This change from a horizontal position is called an inclination. At the magnetic poles, where the force lines are closest together, the inclination or dipping of the needle is so great that the needle hangs in a vertical position. The change in the amount of inclination of the needle as it moves from one end of the magnet to the other indicates that the invisible magnetic force lines near the center of the magnet spread apart and weaken.

"Dipper," from *Janice VanCleave's Spectacular Science Projects: Magnets*. New York: Wiley, 1995. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



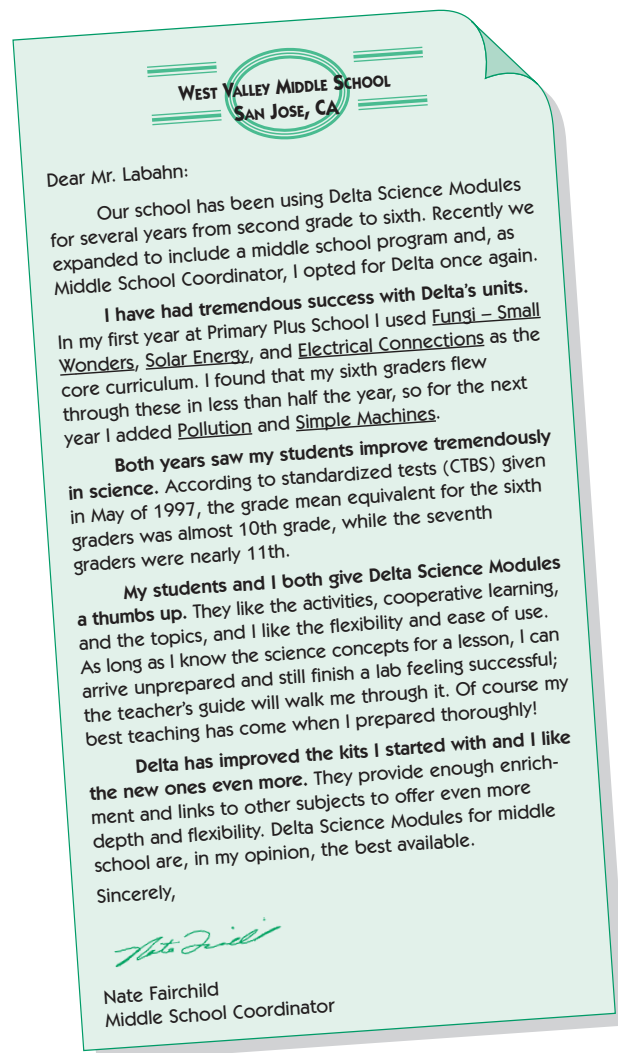
"Dipper" is only one of the countless creative classroom activities in *Janice VanCleave's Spectacular Science Projects: Magnets*, available from Delta for only \$10.98. To order, call 800-442-5444 ext. 714 and request item no. 80-022-1814. Buy six other Spectacular Science Projects titles for only \$62.98! Item no. 80-022-9195 includes the titles *Animals*, *Earthquakes*, *Gravity*, *Machines*, *Molecules* and *Volcanoes*.

Janice VanCleave is the author of over 30 activity books. Her column appears as a regular Chalk Talk feature. ■



**In Their Own Words ...**

**Test Results of DSM Users Speak for Themselves**



**From Sensing to Soaring, New Kits Lift Spirits**

Through 12 engaging hands-on activities, students expand their understanding of the world with these two new additions to over 50 existing **Delta Science Modules II (DSM II)** titles. DSM II, for grades K-8, cover life, earth and physical science. *Using Your Senses*, for grades 2-3, and *Flight and Rocketry*, for grades 5-6 will both be available in January.

In *Using Your Senses* younger students delight in exploring all five senses and in learning how and why each functions as it does. Older students investigate the principles of flight in *Flight and Rocketry* by first learning about the properties of air and then experimenting with parachutes, hot-air balloons, kites, airplanes and rockets.

Both kits, organized in sturdy plastic tubs, include a comprehensive teacher's guide and materials for 32 students to conduct all 12 activities. To order *Using Your Senses* (item no. 80-738-3309, \$250) and *Flight and Rocketry* (item no. 80-738-3310, \$220), or any other DSM II title, call 800-258-1302 ext. 714. ■

Look for three more new DSM II titles in September!



Pick from over 50 Delta Science Modules II titles and engage your K-8 students in learning about their world through innovative hands-on activities. Two new modules will be available in January.

**Paula Poundstone, Fred Stoller Star in Science Drama**

They may not look like themselves, but Paula Poundstone and Fred Stoller lend their world-famous humor to an exciting new animated series that teaches science through intriguing courtroom dramas. **Science Court™**, which airs Saturday mornings on ABC TV and is available for classrooms on CD-ROM, features the two comedians as wacky characters in 12 court cases that revolve around scientific investigations.



Tom Snyder's zany new cartoon series, **Science Court™**, is bound to draw your students into serious scientific investigations. Each topic is available on CD-ROM (with teacher's guide and classroom poster). Corresponding hands-on activity kits are sold separately.

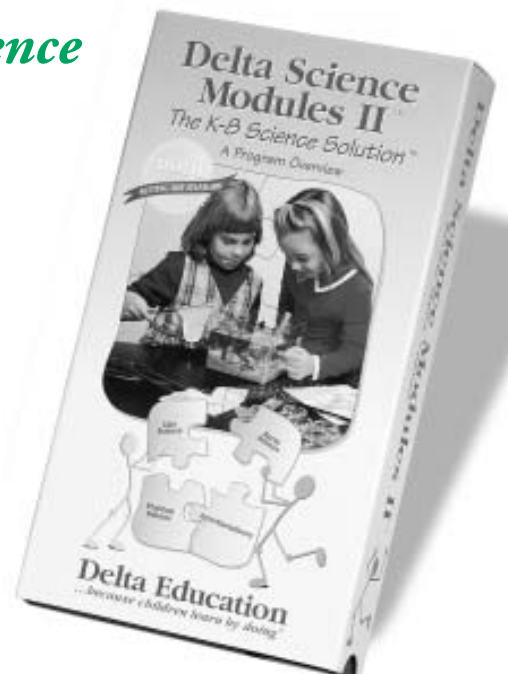
Created by Tom Snyder Productions, the series combines clever cartoon animation with hands-on activities for grades 4-6 to teach fundamental science concepts and model good scientific practice.

Join science attorney Doug Savage as he defends Clara's secret weight-loss potion in *Gravity*, find out who's the laziest worker at Robocorp in *Work & Simple Machines*, and discover whether Shep was 10 seconds late sounding the town cannon in *Sound*.

You won't have to subpoena your students to this court – just start the program and watch them dig into the issues. Each CD-ROM is accompanied by a teacher's guide and classroom poster; corresponding activity kits with materials needed for each topic are stored in a sturdy plastic bin.

Titles include *Electricity*, *Fossils*, *Heat Expansion*, *Living Things*, *Seasons & Soil*, *Work & Simple Machines*, *Gravity*, *Inertia*, *Sound*, *Statistics*, and *Water Cycle*. CD-ROMs from \$29.98; kits from \$14.98. Call 800-442-5444 ext. 714 to order yours today! ■

**FREE Video Could Change the Way You Teach Science**



Take nine minutes out of your busy schedule and learn why teachers across the country call **Delta Science Modules II** (with over 50 titles) the most versatile science program available. Get your free video today by calling 800-258-1302 ext. 714. ■

**FYI...**

Videos that accompany the Delta Science Modules are Parents' Choice award winners!



## As Goals of Education Change, SCIS 3 is Already There

To listen to Thomas M. Bell, Curriculum Specialist for Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina, it's hard to believe that the principles underlying the SCIS 3 program weren't derived moments ago, in tune with the educational movement of the times.

As education and testing in all subjects move away from rote memorization towards the development of problem solving and critical thinking skills, the K-6 SCIS 3 program seems tailor-made for the task. Ironically, the principles on which SCIS 3 is based were put forth over 30 years ago.

That's good news, as far as Tom Bell is concerned, because that meant he got a chance to "pilot" the program for a few years before it was adopted state-wide in 1994-95. Having experienced SCIS 3 from a variety of perspectives – he has taught, supervised, consulted and administered at the state and local level – he also appreciates how effective the program is.

"Everywhere SCIS 3 has been implemented, teachers say things like, 'Kids wanted to stay in and do science instead of going out for P.E.,'" recounts Bell, "because SCIS 3 changes student attitudes about science. When teachers see success, see kids achieving, they have a positive attitude about science."

Bell's expertise is first-hand, as well as anecdotal. "I taught a sixth grade class one year," he recalls. "The previous year they had tested in the 22nd percentile in science and virtually last in writing on state tests. After a year of SCIS 3, they tested

in the 82nd percentile in science and scored second-highest in writing on state tests."

How did that happen? Bell explains, "Kids who are actively involved learn more. SCIS 3 enables students to be actively involved in science and to develop skills they can use in all subjects. I had sixth graders write three to four observations about each lesson, which they then took to their communication skills class. Imagine how rich that material is! By December, their observations were each a paragraph long."

Bell also notes that SCIS 3 has students use all of their senses, challenges all learning styles, and encourages children to think critically. "We all know that children learn by doing. SCIS 3 has it all laid out for you already."

So when North Carolina's science framework was revised in 1994 to mandate learning through a hands-on approach, Bell knew exactly what needed to be done. "SCIS 3, already implemented in 20 schools in the district, was the only program out there that met the new requirements. It really matches up well with them," he says. All 51 elementary schools in the district now use the SCIS 3 program.

States Bell, "We want children to be active, involved learners and to have fun learning. We want them to learn how to solve problems rather than memorizing facts. I know that SCIS 3 does that." ■



For information about implementing SCIS 3 in your district, call 800-258-1302

## Claire's Column

By Claire Boivin  
Director of Catalog Product Development  
Delta Education



### When teachers speak, Delta listens!

You may not realize it, but you share a position on Delta Education's staff. Yes, you and educators like you play a vital role in Delta's product selection and product development. Your feedback helps us decide what products to offer, how to configure them, and what kind of support materials to include.

Your experience with products – great teaching successes, innovative new ways to use materials, and even disappointments – is how we know what really works in the classroom and what doesn't. Your feedback is our window on the possible, and we make it a central part of our product strategy. Even the evaluation cards you find in your orders are circulated to everyone on staff.

Here's an example of how your opinions shape Delta products. Teachers told us that they like using our **Science in a Nutshell** activities with their entire classes as part of their curriculum, not just in a science corner for enrichment. So, we created the concept of the *Nutshell Cluster* and developed a *Cluster Teacher's Guide*, which includes ideas for creating multiple science centers in your class, background information on the Cluster topic, teaching and assessment suggestions, and full-size (8-1/2" x 11") reproducible masters for the student Activity Guides and Journals. Because you asked for it, it's here! (See story on page 1.)

Remember this the next time you use one of Delta's products, and let us know what you think: Did it work wonderfully for everyone? Did you discover a new way to use it? Are there ways to improve it? Your suggestions may be tomorrow's new products!

We look forward to receiving your thoughts by mail: Claire Boivin, Delta Education, PO Box 3000, Nashua, NH 03061-3000; by fax: 800-282-9560; or by e-mail: [claire@delta-ed.mv.com](mailto:claire@delta-ed.mv.com). ■

Prior to joining Delta Education, Claire Boivin was a classroom teacher for 15 years. She earned her B.S. from St. Bonaventure and M.S. from the University of Notre Dame.

## Two Thumbs Up! ★★★★★ Get Your FREE SCIS 3+ Video

Don't miss the sneak preview of the new SCIS sequel, SCIS 3+, coming in 1998. New teacher guide features – including lesson summaries, new assessment tools, correlations to the National Science Education Standards and Project 2061, and much, much more – promise to make it even easier to help your students succeed. Order your FREE descriptive video (available in January) by calling **800-258-1302 ext. 714**. ■



## Foam Manipulatives Lead to Quiet(er) Learning



Foam manipulatives are quieter and less expensive than their wooden and plastic counterparts, and kids love their unique feel!



A noisy classroom can be the sound of success, if the noise is lively discussion centered around hands-on activities. But when the noise of manipulatives overshadows the discussion, the resulting cacophony can be a hindrance to learning.

Enter foam manipulatives, lightweight substitutes for the traditional plastic or wooden variety. Teachers love them because they are quieter and typically less expensive than plastic or wooden pieces, while students are drawn to their inviting texture.

Among the foam manipulatives Delta offers are Tangrams (Set of 32, item no. 80-201-0777, \$24.98), Pattern Blocks (Set of 250, item no. 80-161-4095, \$12.98), Quiet Quilting™ (Set of 600, item no. 80-201-0788, \$12.98), and Perpetual Patterns (Set of 252, 80-161-4315, \$22.98).

Bring some peace to your patterning activities, call **800-442-5444 ext. 714** to order. ■

## Quality Activities Make Kits a Classroom Hit

Looking for a generous number of high-quality activities to keep your grade 3-5 science lessons fresh – and connected to the rest of your curriculum? Look no further! Delta's **Explorations** kits each include 50 science plus 25 interdisciplinary activities and the hands-on materials for 30 students to successfully conduct them.

Our *Explorations in Life Science* kit was so popular, we've added *Explorations in Earth Science* and *Explorations in Physical Science*. One teacher told us, "I love the fact that you offer a teacher demonstration kit [containing enough materials to demonstrate each activity], as well as a whole class kit. That gives me the flexibility I need to 'explore' according to my own class needs."

Suit your own needs – order your **Explorations** kits today by calling **800-442-5444 ext. 714**. *Earth Science Class Kit*, item no. 80-110-4025, \$269; *Earth Science Demonstration Kit*, item no. 80-110-4014, \$65; *Life Science Class Kit\**, item no. 80-110-3992, \$289; *Life Science Demonstration Kit\**, item no. 80-110-4003, \$65; *Physical Science Class Kit*, item no. 80-110-3630, \$329; *Physical Science Demonstration Kit*, item no. 80-110-3948, \$65. Teacher's Guides are available separately. ■

\*Living materials not included.



*Explorations in Life Science* has been so popular with teachers that Delta has added *Earth* and *Physical* science to the **Explorations** series. Teacher Guides are available separately for only \$32.98 each (*Earth*, item no. 80-201-1250; *Life*, item no. 80-201-1240; *Physical*, item no. 80-201-0910).

## Most Wanted: Posters



*Magnets at Work* is one of four new **Postertube Science™** kits, available from Delta for only \$19.98. Each kit includes a colorful 17" x 22" classroom poster, activity materials, and an activity booklet.

Ever hang up a great poster and wish there were an easy way to follow through on the ideas it sparks? If so, you're not alone; teachers from all over the country have requested science posters and accompanying materials. In response, Delta has created a unique solution – a series of kits that combines thought-provoking posters with hands-on activities.

Each **Postertube Science™** kit includes a colorful 17" x 22" classroom poster, activity materials, and an activity booklet, all packaged in a sturdy postertube. Choose from primary kits: **Seeds** (item no. 80-110-4421) and **Seashells** (item no. 80-110-4432) or intermediate kits: **Rocks and Minerals** (item no. 80-110-4400) and **Magnets at Work** (item no. 80-110-4410).

Brighten up your classroom and let young minds follow where their curiosity takes them – all for only \$19.98 per kit! Call **800-442-5444 ext. 714** to order. ■





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## FOSS Developers Optimistic About New Alliance



FOSS, a modular program for K-6, involves students in cognitively-appropriate scientific inquiry using many unique hands-on materials.

The **Full Option Science System (FOSS)** has a new home and a bright future. The FOSS program, 27 hands-on science modules for grades K-6, and the multimedia complement to FOSS, are now available exclusively from Delta Education. Developed by the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley (LHS) and funded in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF), FOSS is the science program of choice in schools across the country.

"Delta's strong commitment to hands-on science, extensive experience with science kits and responsive customer service are all good news for FOSS customers," explains Professor Lawrence Lowery, principal investigator of the FOSS program. "In addition, we have gained a partner in the development of a FOSS program for middle school." Delta will cooperate with the LHS FOSS development group and NSF to fund and publish the new program.

Larry Malone and Linda DeLucchi, co-directors of the FOSS program, have worked with Delta for many years on FOSS - Delta collaborated with LHS to develop and manufacture the FOSS kits as well as other projects, such as the Outdoor Biology Instructional Strategies (OBIS). "Based on that long-standing relationship," says Malone, "we feel that we have the ideal team to continue and expand the K-6 FOSS program, as well as to help develop the new FOSS middle school program."

For more information or to order K-6 FOSS materials, call **800-258-1302 ext. 714**. ■

## DeltaGram

To order products featured in *Chalk Talk*, or for further information, call 800-442-5444 ext. 714 or mail this form to the address below.

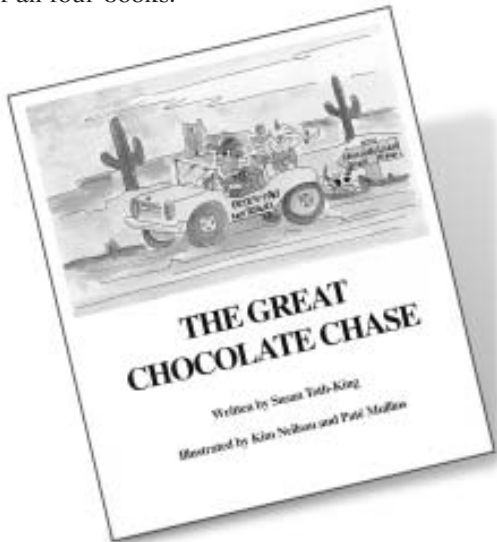
- Please put me on the *Chalk Talk* mailing list  
 Please send me a catalog:  
 Hands-On Math  Hands-On Science  
 Please send me information about:  
 Delta Science Modules II  SCIS 3  
 Rising to The Challenge  CLASP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail to: *Chalk Talk*, Delta Education, P.O. Box 3000,  
Nashua, NH 03061-3000  
Fax to: 800-282-9560

## Environmental Literature Naturally Leads to Science

When 1,000 teachers were asked what they would like to have to teach early elementary science, they responded resoundingly, "a literature-based program." So David LaHart, Director of the Energy and Environmental Alliance at Florida State University, set about creating the **Children's Language Arts and Science Project (CLASP)**.

With funding from the Florida energy office, LaHart hired Edna Brabham, a reading and language arts specialist, and two experienced writers. They have created four books: *Who Turned Out the Lights?* and *The Incredible Journey of EB*, read-aloud books for grades 1 and 2; *The Great Chocolate Chase*, a transitional picture book for grades 2 and 3; and *The Green School Mystery*, a first chapter book for grade 3. Environmental issues are at the heart of all four books.



The **Children's Language Arts and Science Project (CLASP)**, a favorite among early elementary teachers, introduces science activities as a natural extension of stories about energy and the environment.

Once the stories were written, LaHart and his team developed science activities and teacher notes which are included at the end of each book. Then Delta built a kit to accompany the hands-on science and math activities.

The resulting program has received rave reviews. Says LaHart, "Early elementary educators love it. Since the activities are natural extensions of the story lines, teachers - and students - effortlessly make the transition from language arts to science and math."

LaHart's team has trained over 600 Florida teachers. Surveyed three months after their training, 96% had taught one or more of the CLASP lessons and 86% had taught three or more, a sure indication of the program's triumph in the classroom. "Teachers have more success with CLASP than other programs because it's a complete package," explains LaHart. "It really is one-stop shopping for the early elementary curriculum."



The complete CLASP kit (all four books, hands-on materials to conduct the activities, and a storage module) is available exclusively from Delta for only \$146. Call **800-258-1302, ext. 714** and request item no. 80-890-1859. ■

### Update In a Nutshell ... continued from page 1

To order your new **Nutshell Clusters**, call **800-442-5444 ext. 714**. The *Electricity & Magnetism Cluster* (item no. 80-750-2505) is \$109.98 and *Simple Machines Cluster* (item no. 80-750-2516) is \$109.98. Cluster Guides, sold separately, are \$29.98 each (*Electricity & Magnetism*, item no. 80-450-1320; *Simple Machines*, item no. 80-450-1310).

### Nutshells Let Students Explore Their Own Inner Workings

*The Human Machine* and *A Peek Inside You!*, two new Science in a Nutshell mini-kits, involve students in their anatomy through hands-on activities. With *The Human Machine*, students learn how their bones, muscles, and joints work together to keep their bodies in motion. With *A Peek Inside You!*, they investigate their respiratory, digestive, and circulatory systems.

Both Nutshells are only \$32.98 each and contain hands-on materials, an activity guide and a student journal, packaged in a durable plastic storage box. Call **800-442-5444 ext. 714** and order *The Human Machine*, item no. 80-750-5068 and *A Peek Inside You!*, item no. 80-750-5057. ■

## Editor's Notebook



Once again you have prevailed. Although you may not have given much thought to how Delta develops and chooses new products, **you** play a central role in the process.

As **Claire** notes in her column (p. 3), feedback from *Nutshell* users has led to the creation of **Nutshell Clusters** (p. 1). But many other articles in this issue reflect your suggestions for product additions and enhancements.

For instance, popular demand led to the development of **Postertube Science** kits (p. 3), **Explorations** kits (p. 3) and new **Delta Science Module** titles (p. 2). It was based on teachers' suggestions that we introduced **foam manipulatives** (p. 3), and the new features of **SCIS 3+** (p. 3) were all suggested by current SCIS users.

Alliances with sister organizations are leading to new products that bring you the best of each partner. **Science Court** CD-ROMs from Tom Snyder paired with kits from Delta (p. 2) are one example - stay tuned for more!

A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your input, feedback, comments and suggestions, and please keep those cards and e-mail coming!

Respectfully,

*Alex Hayes*  
Alex Hayes  
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. Be sure to check out the Activity of the Month on our newly revised Web site!

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e-mail: [mathew@delta-ed.nv.com](mailto:mathew@delta-ed.nv.com)