

North Carolina
Destination Imagination

NCDI

North Carolina Destination Imagination

December 2009 Newsletter

"The creative is the place where no one else has ever been. You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover is yourself."

~Alan Alda

Destination Imagination CEO to Present at NCAGT Conference



Chuck Cadle, Destination Imagination's CEO, has been invited to be a presenter at this

year's North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented Conference. Chuck will present two sessions entitled *Using Experimental Education to Teach the Process of Creative Problem Solving*. The conference is February 11-12, 2010 in Winston-Salem. If you are attending the NCAGT Conference, be sure to sign up for one of Chuck's sessions!

Do You Recognize This Former DI Kid?

Chris Colfer, one of the stars of the Fox TV hit *Glee*, was a Destination Imagination participant.

Check out *Glee* Wednesdays at 8:00 on Fox!



projectOUTREACH: DI Teams Address Real Community Issues



Destination Imagination is calling upon all students to stand up, make some noise, and improve their communities with projectOUTREACH: Band Together.

projectOUTREACH is a Destination Imagination Team Challenge designed to engage students in community activism. In projectOUTREACH, teams are invited to address real community issues through personal expression.

Destination Imagination's Service Learning Challenge reflects the trend in education that combines traditional learning methods with civil service. This year's projectOUTREACH Challenge uses music to raise awareness of issues affecting communities. DI has partnered with the indie rock band MAE to create Band Together, which invites students to design and implement a community-centered Project that uses music to effect positive change.

"We are very excited to partner with Destination Imagination on projectOUTREACH for the 2009-

2010 season, and we are pleased to be the inspiration for Band Together," said MAE drummer Jacob Marshall. "MAE is dedicated to supporting humanitarian programs across the country, and we felt this educational program is a wonderful opportunity for students to become active in building sustainable change in their communities."

projectOUTREACH is open to middle school, high school, and university Destination Imagination teams. In addition to addressing a community need, teams create an Album to document their project, as well as an entertaining performance to present at their Tournaments. Each team's presentation will include a Multi-sensory Aesthetic Experience.



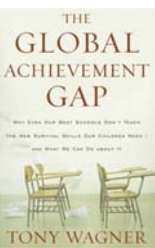
To learn more, go to www.idodi.org or call 1-888-321/1503 tollfree.

If you would like to find out more about MAE, visit their website, www.whatismae.com.

The Global Achievement Gap by Tony Wagner

"Even our best schools don't teach the New Survival Skills our children need."

Tony Wagner is the co-director of the Change Leadership Group at Harvard University. He consults to schools, districts and foundations and has served as Senior Advisor to the Bill and Melinda



Gates Foundation. In his book *The Global Achievement Gap*, Wagner identifies seven essential skills which he feels that our schools are failing to teach students. These skills include: Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving, Collaboration across Networks, Agility and Adaptability, Initiative and Entrepreneurial-

ism, Effective Oral and Written Communication, Accessing and Analyzing Information, and Curiosity and Imagination. Each of these skills is addressed in some way by participation in Destination Imagination. DI can help close the achievement gap and prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders!

Dates to Remember!

February 15, 2010

Teams must have team numbers purchased by this date

February 18, 2010

Registration cut-off for NCDI Western Tournament

March 20, 2010

NCDI Western Tournament

March 22, 2010

Registration cut-off for NCDI Eastern Tournament

April 17, 2010

NCDI Eastern Tournament

Guidelines for Helping Your Team Brainstorm and Generate Ideas

The Problem Solver's Practical Toolbox offers four basic guidelines for you and your team to follow when the team is generating ideas for their Team Challenge solution:

Defer Judgment: Refrain from judging ideas or the people producing them. Let the team know that ideas can be expressed freely without fear of judgment.

Seek Quantity: The more ideas that are generated, the better the chances that some of them will end up being useful ones.

Encourage Freewheeling: Sometimes those ideas that seem outrageous at first may end up being great. They may just need toning down.

Look for Combinations: Wonderful new possibilities might be found when team members combine different ideas.



NATIONAL DAIRY COUNCIL

Have Some Fun With DI Over the Holidays!

Just because it's the holidays doesn't mean that DI goes on break. Take advantage of the extra time that your team has away from school and other responsibilities. Sure, some families will be going out of town and it's going to be hard to get the entire team together, so have smaller work groups meet with specific goals. A couple of kids can get together to work on the script or a costume or to draw out set ideas.

Plan a holiday get-together for your team. Let it be a time to socialize and do team-building activities. Combine fun and creativity. For example, you can put out sandwich-making ingredients and set these rules: No one can speak, no one can point, and no one can make their own sandwich. Then sit back and watch as the team comes up with creative ways to communicate how they want their teammates to make their sandwiches. Creative signals for things like turkey and Swiss cheese will have everyone laughing and bonding.

Tie Instant Challenge practice into the holiday theme. Give the team standard IC supplies (straws, paperclips, pipe cleaners, etc.) and ask them to create a new toy, or a new vehicle for Santa to travel in, or a new hot holiday gift. You might even ask them to come up with an informational with which to sell their creation.



Reminder: Each Team Must Provide an Appraiser to Help at Your Tournament

Destination Imagination would not exist if it were not for the efforts of thousands of volunteers. We do our best to make each tournament a valuable experience for every child who is involved. In order to do this, we need your help! Please remember that every team is asked to provide an additional volunteer to help by being an appraiser or serving in some other official capacity for the tournament. Volunteers are asked to attend a training as well as to be available all day on tournament day. The name and contact information for your appraiser must be provided when you register for your tournament. So start looking now for people who might be able to help. It's a great way to get grandparents, community leaders, and anyone who loves kids and creativity involved. And it's fun! Most appraisers enjoy the experience and are eager to return again.

Instant Challenge Practice: Get Creative!

Team Managers should be creative when helping teams practice Instant Challenge. Teams love the opportunity to work with new and interesting materials. Give your team a unique set of materials to work with, like vegetables or marshmallows, or plastic forks. Challenge them to use the materials to build a tower, or create a character for a new cartoon show, or a home for an animal. As they learn to work with different kinds of materials, they are developing skills that will carry over into other areas. They are analyzing properties of materials, figuring out what makes a structure sturdy, finding new ways to think about common objects, and more. And most importantly, they are learning to work together, share ideas, and act as a team.



In addition to task scores, every Instant Challenge is scored for Teamwork. Help your team build their teamwork skills with effective IC practices!

