

**From:** Science Buddies <scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org>

**Subject:** New Science Buddies Blog; Students Mentoring Students

**Reply:** scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org

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## Science Buddies Teacher Newsletter

Issue 6 - June 2009

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*Dear Tina,*

*You'll find a wide variety of articles in this issue! We're pleased to announce our presence on social networking sites, as well as inform you about an exciting upcoming NASA mission. And of course, you'll find the latest science-related events and deadlines. Visit us online, anytime, at [www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org).*

*Sincerely,*  
*Kenneth Hess*  
*Science Buddies Founder and President*  
[www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)

### Teacher Survey

#### Science Buddies Wants Your Feedback!

Take this [quick 7-question survey](#) to help us create resources that will better serve you and your students.

### News and Announcements

## Science Buddies Blog Pairs Science News with Project Ideas

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The newly released Disney/Pixar movie UP features a house turned into an aircraft powered by thousands of balloons. A recent study in Florida shows that Mockingbirds can differentiate between individual humans and "remember" those who threaten their nests. Frequent hand washing is important in stopping the spread of many germs, but are all parts of the hand equal? From Hubble Space Telescope repairs to DNA Day to the discovery of a 47-million-year-old fossil in Germany, "science" is in the news.

Our goal with the [Science Buddies blog](#) is to make it easier to bring science news into the classroom. On the blog, we take science news and pair it with relevant Science Buddies science fair Project Ideas. We hope the blog helps you extend conversations about current events, discoveries, and advancements by pointing you to background material and hands-on experiments and research from our repository of over 800 Project Ideas. Stop by and [take a look!](#)

## Students Mentoring Students

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To complement the rich repository of science fair project ideas on the Science Buddies website, the [Ask an Expert forum](#) invites parents, teachers, and students to post questions that arise at any point during a science fair project. Questions are then answered by our team of volunteer experts and mentors. Our experts are adults who are either working in scientific fields or are pursuing advanced degrees in areas of science. We also recruit advanced high school students who are interested in serving as "mentors" on the Ask an Expert forums.

If you have students in your class that you think would enjoy volunteering in this way and who have demonstrated a broad range of science aptitude and interest, we encourage you to talk to them about Science Buddies and the possibility of volunteering next year. We establish Ask an Expert volunteer assignments in the late summer, falling in line with the school year calendar. Community service credit is also available for Ask an Expert volunteers. To find out more about volunteering, visit our [High School Students: Become an Expert](#) page.

## Symantec Launches Norton Online Family Beta

The Symantec Foundation has recently launched a unique, Web-based service, designed to help parents become more involved in their children's online lives. [Norton Online Family](#) is designed for parent-child collaboration, and not policing. In addition to offering the best protection for children, the service helps kids and parents set "house rules" together, with filters that are customizable to fit the needs of each family. Extremely easy to use, the service allows parents to monitor activities, such as Web surfing, IM chat, social networking, Web searches, and time spent online. Helping families stay safe online is extremely important to Symantec and Science Buddies. Visit [Norton Online Family](#) today and spread the word about this important new resource to your students' parents.

## Design Squad Teams up with NASA

[Design Squad](#), a TV show developed by WGBH in Boston, introduces middle school students to the science of engineering. Each show features two teams of kids that are assigned an engineering challenge to solve; such as, building usable cardboard furniture and building a dune buggy. Design Squad has teamed up with the NASA LCROSS mission team (see more about this in the article below) to develop classroom curriculum ideas that mirror the types of engineering challenges that will be done on the LCROSS mission. Check out this [Design Squad Challenge: On Target](#), which simulates one of the tasks of the LCROSS mission.

## NASA LCROSS Mission Planned for This Year

LCROSS (Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite) is a mission, scheduled for this year, to determine if there is water on the moon. Why? If humans are going to explore other parts of space, they'll need a closer water source than Earth. If there is water, it most likely exists in the form of ice. The Ames Research Center (a division of NASA) is teaming up with Northrup Grumman to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon. This spacecraft will drop a 2,000-kg payload (approximately the size and weight of an SUV) onto a crater on the dark side of the moon. The impact of the payload will result in a large plume of debris. The debris will be analyzed for any signs of water by instruments on board the spacecraft. Northrop Grumman, a major sponsor of Science Buddies, developed the specialized equipment for the LCROSS mission. More details about this mission can be found at [the LCROSS website](#). Science Buddies will be creating projects later this year to coincide with the LCROSS mission.

## Events and Deadlines

## Events

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- [World Ocean Day](#): World Ocean Day is on June 8, 2009. It provides an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. The Ocean Project, working closely with the World Ocean Network each year, helps to coordinate events and activities with aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations, universities, schools, businesses. Find out how you can [participate in registered events](#) around the world.
- [RoboGames 2009](#): This annual event, where robots compete in over 70 different events, will be held in San Francisco, California June 12-14, 2009.

## Deadlines

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- [Shoot Nations 2009](#): This a worldwide competition for young photographers. The theme for 2009 is "Growing up in the 21st century." Through photography, participants will portray the current effects of climate change on their lives, how they can act now to reduce these effects and ultimately, how their environment will change in the years to come and how they might adapt to this change. The competition is open to anyone aged 11-25, from anywhere in the world. Entries may be submitted through July 31, 2009.

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