

DSBN eLearning Newsletter



Issue 4

<http://www.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/gateway.htm>

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• Upcoming eLearning Courses to be Offered in the DSBN

The eLearning committee, in consultation with the secondary principals and subject councils, have determined that the following courses may be offered through e learning in the 2004/05 school year: CHV20 Civics, GLC20 Careers, BAT4M Accounting, CIA4U Economics, CLN4U Law, SPH4U & SPH3U Physics, SES 4U Earth and Space Science, MCT4C Math, and Co-operative Education. Writing teams are being developed for these courses. Please watch for postings.

• Earth and Space Sciences Course Now Offered

The science course, SES 4U1, focuses on Earth as a planet. The basic concepts and theories of Earth science are covered along with their relevance to everyday life. The course was developed by DSBN teachers and the Brock University Earth Sciences Department. It is expected that students will benefit from field trips and other resources provided in partnership with Brock University.

Students will explore; the place of Earth in the solar system, the composition of Earth, internal and surface changes, and Earth's history. This course draws on astronomy, biology, chemistry, and physics concepts from other science courses. This course will run during the second semester as an eLearning credit course. The textbook selected was *Earth Science* by Spaulding and Namowitz (distributed by Nelson Canada).

• eLearning Augmentation Update

The new year saw the start of our second group of teachers interested in augmenting their classroom program with eLearning. This involves using the World Wide Web to create activities students can access from home or school twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. In order to post eLearning materials, teachers in the DSBN must first take the series of compulsory in-services face-to-face and participate in the specially designed course **Teaching and Learning Online** which is taken over a period of five weeks. Then, each teacher is provided with virtual classroom space in Desire2Learn* and they are free to put as much content as they are ready, willing and able to create for the Web. We had 18 teachers work through this process first term and they have now been joined by another 30 teachers. There are both Elementary and Secondary teachers involved in this aspect of our eLearning program.

Congratulations to those teachers who volunteered to participate and we look forward to having more staff join in next year. Watch for invitations to the next group of "inductees" to appear in your schools by the beginning of June.



• *Questions & Answers

Question? What is **Desire2Learn**?

Answer? **Desire2Learn** is a company that provides the DSBN a way to access and manage on-line courses. Another name for this is a Learning Management System [LMS].

*Future Questions can be directed to
Jennifer Ribaric at Orchard Park School in Niagara Falls*