February 11, 2019

Dear <<First Name>>,

Happy National Inventors Day! February 11th was deemed National Inventor’s Day by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 to honor inventors and their life-changing work. Reagan picked a day that coincides with the birthday of historic inventor Thomas Edison. While the Lemelson-MIT Program celebrates inventors every day, today is especially important as it offers an opportunity for the nation to pay tribute to the many inventors whose outstanding achievements have impacted the world. Ideally, it inspires all of us to redouble our efforts to encourage aspiring inventors to pursue their creative, problem-solving endeavors. I’m fortunate to witness the excitement in young people when they experience inventing through the InvenTeams initiative. Often times, they are inspired to move into STEM-related fields in college and pursue patents for their inventions. We now have our eighth high school InvenTeam that received a patent for their invention project!

In this winter edition, I’m thrilled to announce our collaboration with Cricket Media for special issues of their magazines, ASK, CLICK, COBBLESTONE, DIG and MUSE that focus on invention. I hope the articles written by young inventors from our program and our own Leigh Estabrooks and Tony Perry will inspire more youth to invent. You’ll read in the articles below, stories from former InvenTeam educators who are paving the pathway for young people to experience the joys of working as inventors.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
DON'T MISS CRICKET MEDIA’S NEW ISSUES FOR YOUNG INVENTORS AND OUR SPECIAL DISCOUNT

The Lemelson-MIT Program staff along with young inventors from InvenTeams and the Student Prize program, teamed up with editors of DIG, MUSE, ASK, CLICK, and COBBLESTONE to write articles about invention that would spark the interest of any child from ages 3 to 14 years old. Stories include the successes and mishaps of an inventor, how two young females tapped into their inner inventor in high school and have been hooked ever since and much more. Cricket Media is giving a generous discount of 50% off the newsstand prices for all five invention issues to friends of the Lemelson-MIT Program.

FORMER INVENTEAM TEACHER ADDS INVENTION TO INNOVATION CLASS TO CURRICULUM

Robotics Teacher Bob Richards of the 2016 Stockbridge High School InvenTeam in Michigan, won the Marshall Plan for Talent grant and will

FROM WOODSHOP TO MAKERSPACE: HOW ONE CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATOR BUILT AN INVENTION PATHWAY FOR HIS STUDENTS

Jonathan Schwartz, a math and pre-engineering teacher at Colfax High School in California, knew he had to step in to save his school’s wood shop when it was in danger of shutting down. His instinct told him it was a place ripe for student invention, and flash forward almost 20 years, he was right. The shop has become a makerspace where students can experiment and make prototypes for their inventions. “Wood, more than any other material, is optimal for prototyping,” Shwartz says. An InvenTeam teacher in 2005 and 2013, Schwartz is also an inventor himself, having invented such things as the patented chainsaw tool, TopSaw. Schwartz talks about the history of the shop and the importance of invention in a case study conducted by Lemelson-MIT.

INVENTION EDUCATION STUDENTS
use the funds to add an invention to innovation class to his school's offerings. Richards has continued growing his original InvenTeam project of an underwater camera and water quality monitoring system to give more students the opportunity to learn about invention and sharpen their hands-on STEM skills.

EDUCATING FOR CREATIVITY AND INVENTIVENESS: NEW INVENTION EDUCATION WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

The Lemelson-MIT Program will be hosting four new workshops this spring and summer to help educators launch their invention education programs and expand the number of students introduced to inventing. Each workshop is three days long and is intended for educators of all grade levels, after school professionals, or other educators who want to enrich students’ educational experience through invention. The workshops will take place in Houston, Tampa, Irvine and Cambridge. Consider enrolling today!

2019-2020 APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR INVENTEAM GRANTS

Applications are now open for educators who want a chance to win an Excite Award that includes a free trip to MIT in June to experience EurekaFest and learn first-hand what it takes to be an InvenTeam educator. Find out more about the application and apply before the deadline on

SOLVE FIRST RESPONDERS’ NEEDS

Educator Doug Scott knows a thing or two about invention education. He led the Natick High School InvenTeam in 2013 and currently serves as a Lemelson-MIT Master Teacher in addition to teaching engineering at Hopkinton High School in Hopkinton, MA. Mr. Scott encourages his students to find solutions to real-world problems—namely to solve some of the issues facing first responders in the community of Hopkinton. Scott’s students have invented fire-sensing robots, more effective helmet clips, and storage systems for uniforms inside the fire truck, among other things. Read the full techdirections story where Lemelson-MIT’s own Leigh Estabrooks weighs in on the importance of invention education.

USING INVENTION ACTIVITIES TO INTEGRATE ENGINEERING DESIGN IN THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM

The 2017 InvenTeam from Greenbrier East High School in West Virginia faced a catastrophic rainstorm that hit their community head-on by inventing a brick made out of cardboard that could be used to build temporary housing structures for people who lost their homes in the wreckage. Anthony Perry and Leigh Estabrooks, two members of the Lemelson-MIT staff, site Greenbrier’s story in their article in The Science Teacher, to highlight the significance of invention education as an important tool in preparing students to become innovative change-makers within their own communities and beyond.