



## *Educational Programming Highlights* ~ DECEMBER 2009 ~

Here are some highlights from Idaho Public Television's programming this month. Our Classroom Calendar can be found at <http://www.idahoptv.org/learn/toolbox.cfm>. It lists additional programs suitable for use in the classroom, professional development courses, telecourses and more.

\*\*Time zones are MT/PT where two times are shown.

### FOR ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

#### ***Math & Science:***

D4K: ASTRONOMY. Airs Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 2:00/1:00 pm. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen will be joined by Kenneth Carpenter, Hubble Space Telescope Operations Project Scientist. Carpenter will be at the Goddard Space Flight Center and appears via satellite. The D4K web site offers facts, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs, special D4K web exclusive programming and more.

<http://www.idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/> (30 min)

DESIGN SQUAD. Airs Saturdays at 12:30 pm/11:30 am. Eight teenagers compete to design and build fully operational machines. Students in 5th to 8th grades can interact with the series through the website, blogs, and handheld devices. Find out more at <http://www.pbskids.org/designsquad/> (30 min)

#### ***History:***

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. The American Experience website includes a section with a format designed especially for kids called WayBack: U.S. History for Kids. The web pages accompany many of the American Experience programs airing each month, and include resources for parents and teachers. Topics include civil rights, U.S. Presidents, the gold rush, and more. Check it out at

<http://pbskids.org/wayback/>

#### ***Music, Art & Literature:***

BETWEEN THE LIONS. Airs weekdays at 2:00/1:00 pm. Each episode takes an interactive approach to reading by encouraging children age three to seven to think about the phonic elements, vocabulary, and grammar that make up a story. Find out more about the series at

<http://www.pbskids.org/lions> (30 min)

### FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

#### ***Math & Science:***

SAVAGE PLANET. Airs Wednesdays, Dec. 9 to 30 at 3:00/2:00 am. While planet Earth sustains life, it also harbors forces that can instantly destroy us. This program examines the stunning beauty and deadly power of the Earth. Students will research volcanoes, storms, atmospheric conditions and extreme environments in the lesson plans at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageplanet/>. (4 x 60 min)

WHAT WENT RIGHT. Airs Thursday, Dec. 17 at 2:00/1:00 am. Spirit and Opportunity, NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers, continued to operate on the Red Planet much longer than their designers and builders had initially promised. This goes behind the scenes to discover why one of the most challenging missions of the entire space age succeeded when so many other national endeavors have fallen short. Check out the "Kids Corner" page at <http://passporttoknowledge.com/mars/involved/whatwentright.html> for more information. (60 min)

DESIGN SQUAD. See program information under Elementary section.

NATURE. Airs Sundays at 8:00 pm. The award-winning web site <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature> offers teachers guides and more than 40 free downloadable video segments ranging in length from 30 seconds to 5 minutes. Repeats Tuesday and Sunday at 1:00/12:00 am (60 min)

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN FRONTIERS. Airs Tuesdays at 2:00/1:00 am. Host Alan Alda takes us from the depths of the conscious mind to the outer reaches of the universe. Each program is accompanied by an online teaching guide filled with science activities. December topics: robots (12/1), bioengineering (12/8), alternative therapies (12/15) <http://www.pbs.org/saf/index.html> (60 min)

NOVA. Airs Tuesdays at 7:00/8:00 pm. NOVA is the highest rated science series on television, and the most watched documentary series on public television. December topics: solar energy (12/1), volcanoes (12/8), spying/National Security Agency (12/15), bonobo apes (12/22), genetic research (12/29). Visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/> to find numerous classroom tools, links to watch many episodes online, and many more resources. (60 min)

### ***Social Studies, History and Economics:***

BIZ KID\$. Airs Monday, Dec. 7 at 3:00/2:00 am. This program shows kids how to make and manage money. The website <http://www.bizkids.com/> has many resources for kids, parents and teachers. (2 x 30 min)

REBELS AND REDCOATS: HOW BRITAIN LOST AMERICA. Airs Wednesdays, Dec. 2 & 9 at 1:00/12:00 am. With vivid dramatizations of battles, eyewitness accounts, original documents and paintings, this tells the story of the American Revolution from an unusual point of view - that of the British losers. (2 x 2 hrs)

ANDREW JACKSON: GOOD, EVIL AND THE PRESIDENCY. Airs Monday, Dec. 7 at 9:00 pm. Martin Sheen narrates this biography of Jackson, whose life incorporates opposing extremes of personality, skills and ethics. The web site materials were developed to promote understanding of the great number of pivotal political, economic, and social transformations during his presidency. Find lessons plans and two WebQuests for both middle school and high school classrooms at <http://www.pbs.org/kcet/andrewjackson/> Repeats Thursday, Dec. 10 at 1:00/12:00 am (2 hrs)

AMERICA'S HEARTLAND. Airs Saturdays at 3:30/2:30 pm. This series tells stories about the world of agriculture from all across America. Learn how our agriculture producers provide food, fuel and fiber for America and the world. The website <http://www.americasheartland.org> provides information for students interested in exploring the vast career opportunities in agriculture, and teacher resources to accompany select story segments of the show. (30 min)

***Music, Art & Literature:***

URBAN NUTCRACKER: ANATOMY OF A BALLET. Airs Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 pm. This performance documentary goes behind-the-scenes of Anthony Williams' adaptation of the holiday classic performed by a diverse group of dancers from the community. Challenges include uniting the multi-ethnic team of dancers, artists and stage crew to present a professional-quality stage show on a non-profit budget. (60 min)

INDEPENDENT LENS: BETWEEN THE FOLDS. Airs Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 pm. Blurring lines between art, science, sculpture and math, the film presents an adventure into paper folding, going far beyond the familiar origami of paper planes and cranes.  
<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/between-the-folds/> (60 min)

MASTERPIECE TEACHER GUIDES. Browse the selection of online teacher guides to help you use Masterpiece films in the classroom. Now available: Teaching Dickens: A Masterpiece Guide. This guide helps teachers engage students in their study of Dickens in print as well as on film.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wqbh/masterpiece/learn/guides.html>

FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS
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EDUCATION NEWS PARENTS CAN USE. STUDENT VOICES ON EDUCATION: A NATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ARNE DUNCAN. Airs Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 2:00/1:00 am. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will host a special national town hall forum with students to discuss what is working and what needs improvement in our nation's schools. The secretary also will explore how America's young people are responding to the President's challenge to take responsibility for their learning and achievement. <http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html> (30 min)

WHEN LEARNING COMES NATURALLY. Airs Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 2:30/1:30 am. This program documents innovative outdoor-education programs around the country created to help children understand and experience the wonders and joys of nature. More information is available at <http://www.thelearningchildseries.org>. (30 min)

WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY? Airs Monday, Dec. 28 at 2:00/1:00 am. Told largely in the voices of children, this documentary examines the dramatic disappearance of play and nature from the daily lives of children. The film explores the impact of such isolating environmental factors as sprawl, congestion and endless suburban development on children's mental and physical health and development. <http://www.wfum.org/childrenplay/> (60 min)

FOREVER FRIENDS. Airs Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 2:30/1:30 am. One inspirational teacher connects her second grade students with a special group of elders, and together they take a journey of friendship, education and appreciation of cultural heritages, traditions, histories and values. This documentary provides a behind-the-scenes look at the groundbreaking Forever Friends program in Wisconsin, with its emphasis on the heartwarming friendship, admiration and respect generated when children and elders connect. <http://www.foreverfriends.org/pages/documentry.html> (30 min)

GIRLS'S LIFE. Airs Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 8:00 pm. Author and educator Rachel Simmons examines the challenges facing young women as they surf the waves of 21st-century adolescence. Simmons interviews parents, psychologists, teachers and social workers who are helping to nurture girls into capable, resilient adults. (60 min)

INDEPENDENT LENS. Airs Tuesdays at 10:00 pm. Educators can visit the website to find curricula paired with specially edited video modules taken from the best of Independent Lens films, web original projects and online activities. <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/classroom/index.html> (60 min)

GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS. Media literacy experts have created a guide that simplifies the legalities of using copyrighted materials in an academic setting. The Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Media Literacy Education can be found online at [http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/resources/fair\\_use\\_and\\_teaching/](http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/resources/fair_use_and_teaching/).

VIDEO WORKSHOPS BEGINNING THIS MONTH
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MAKING MEANING IN LITERATURE. Airs Fridays, Dec. 4 to Feb. 5 at 3:00/2:00 am. This nine part workshop offers teachers practical ways to help their students form rich and informed interactions with literature. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series170.html> (9 x 60 min)

Thanks for reading!  
IDPTV Learning Services