Week of 1/27/14

I’m thinking of sending out a weekly letter like this where I will try to compile helpful links or planning ideas. I hope that this will be beneficial. Please let me know anything you’d like for me to look for, and I’ll gladly do so.

Have a great week!

Interesting Info as you plan…

1. Common Core resource – I just received an email for a new, free site with some lessons, videos, etc., aligned with CC (right now, it’s all math & ELA). If you received it, too, then I apologize for the repeat. Just in case, though, here’s the link: <http://commoncore.com/Home/Alt>

If you create an account, you’ll get a Dashboard page with Q&A, but I think the more helpful tab is the teacher tab since it takes you to some sample lessons and student pages. Since this is a new site, I would expect that lots of additions will be coming.

1. Contests – PSA contest
	1. Scholastic’s 2014 Drive2Life contest -- DEADLINE = Feb. 12, 2014; grand prize = $1000, 4 runners-up = $500, teacher of each winner = one year free subscription; go to [www.scholastic.com/drive2life](http://www.scholastic.com/drive2life)
2. Helpful ideas / sites for units re: Olympics
	1. Overview of ideas I’ve seen on some sites –
		1. ELA / SS - research Olympics' history, symbol and winter events, role-Play using Creative Dramatics, brief reports on Olympic personalities (could compile a “Who’s Who or newspaper), current events bulletin board on issues re: Olympics (i.e., why the fears around attending Sochi), collage from newspaper / magazine pictures, articles, or captions re: Olympics, brochures or travel logs re: site of Olympics, use a world map to plot locations of past & current Olympics, write a persuasive letter to Olympic committee to add a sport
		2. Math – plot distances from x (various towns, maybe our hometown or those of Olympians) to Sochi, graphs of locations to see which parts of the world host more frequently / less frequently, get students to do mini-competitions & time them / measure jumps, etc., then plot & compare their results
		3. Science – human body systems used in various sports (i.e., respiratory, muscular), how the various sports use science (i.e., aerodynamics, friction, speed, etc.)
		4. Encore – (art) dioramas of Olympic sport scenes, (PE) “how to” booklets or even mini-Olympics
	2. Helpful sites
		1. Fairly decent list of activities & printables for each discipline <http://www.teachingheart.net/olympics.html>
		2. Great spot for science – lots of videos on “the science of…” various sports & aerodynamics, even of the competition suits for speed skaters <http://www.nbclearn.com/olympics>
		3. Links to Olympic sites with all sorts of background info as well as links to units complied by ABC Learning and some others <http://cybraryman.com/olympics.html>