



School of Continuing Education
Marketing

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST ALLIS TEACHER IS ONE OF EIGHT CHOSEN TO LEAD INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE EXPEDITION

MILWAUKEE -- Linda Mahler-Kropp, eighth grade teacher at Frank Lloyd Wright Middle School in West Allis, is looking forward to the second extraordinary expedition in her life within a span of seven months. This past July, she participated in the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee. This coming January, she will be part of a research team studying California's Channel Islands ecosystem.

Mahler-Kropp has been chosen to work with a select team of internationally distinguished scientists to lead millions of teachers and students on a scientific expedition to examine and monitor the region's animal and marine wildlife.

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education, she was selected for her outstanding leadership skills and passion for learning. She travels to California this winter with the JASON Project, an innovative education program that engages teachers and students in hands-on science by taking them on real expeditions.

Started in 1989 by scientist/explorer Dr. Robert Ballard after he discovered the RMS Titanic, the JASON Project annually travels to exotic locations and broadcasts via satellite and Internet to students worldwide. Frank Lloyd Wright students will share Mahler-Kropp's discoveries in real time through a direct satellite uplink to UWM Jan. 27-Feb. 7.

Mahler-Kropp is one of only eight Teacher Argonauts chosen for the JASON XIV: From Shore to Sea journey. She will accompany Ballard, top-notch scientists and 25 students as they explore this environment from the shore of the densely populated California coastline to the depths of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the landscape and wildlife of the islands themselves.

"The JASON Project curriculum ties science, technology and social studies together," says Mahler-Kropp. "Eleven years ago we watched the JASON trip to the Galapagos Islands. Since then I've been hooked."

Mahler-Kropp, who appeared as one of Cinderella's step-sisters in the July Great Circus Parade, has been involved with the JASON Project for 12 years, using its integrated approach in her classroom and training other teachers to use the JASON curriculum, supplemental videos, interactive Web site and gated online community.

To prepare for the experience, Mahler-Kropp attended the National Educator's Conference at UWM. She met other expedition team members and learned how to implement the JASON Project's curriculum and multimedia tools into her classroom to create a real research environment for students.

JASON XIV: From Shore to Sea investigates the geography of the Channel Islands, including the watersheds of the region's various ecosystems, the fragile kelp forest and fascinating elephant seals and California sea lions. The team also will look at how the geologic, human and cultural history of the region shaped the biology of the islands.

The JASON Project provides an international link for teachers, scientists and students with the help of several institutions having comprehensive research and educational programs including NASA, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and National Marine Mammal Lab, the National Parks Service, the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, University of California at Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.

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To learn more: Visit www.sce-jason.uwm.edu. To contact Mahler-Kropp, call 414-604-3400, Ext. 5208. To learn more about the JASON Project at UWM, contact Cathie Sanders at 414-227-3366.