

# Megaconference Jr. 2006

An Event For and By Students of the World

May 18, 2006  
7AM - 7PM EDT (UTC-4)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

On Thursday, May 18, 2006, *Rockford, Illinois* students and educators will participate in the third annual Megaconference Jr global event. Megaconference Jr. is a project designed to give students in elementary/primary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and contribute to each other's learning in real time, using advanced multi-point video conferencing technology. Presenters will design and conduct videoconference-based presentations and activities focused on academic and cultural issues. Participants can address questions to presenters and collaborate with geographically diverse peers in collaborative learning activities, thus building international cultural awareness. Detailed information about the event including the day's schedule of presentation is available at [www.megaconferencejr.org](http://www.megaconferencejr.org).

Burpee Museum, 737 N. Main Street in Rockford, Illinois will serve as videoconferencing host sites for the event. Four area students from Burpee's KIDS program (Kids Involved in Discovering Science) have been selected to participate in this unique learning opportunity. For these lucky students, "the show goes on" this Thursday, May 18 at 4:45 p.m. The focus of their 20 minute presentation is *Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur*. The presentation will be in the form of a virtual tour of the exhibit with narrative by the students.

Media can view the MegaConference Jr on line by going to [www.megaconferencejr.org](http://www.megaconferencejr.org) Our local participants will be available for interview after they complete their presentation, which is about 5:10p.m. CST

The Megaconference Jr. event will include participants from over 200 schools from countries around the world. Sites anywhere in the world are also encouraged to watch the live stream, chat with other viewers, and ask questions of the live presenters on May 18<sup>th</sup> at <http://commonsvcg.oar.net/megaconference>. The event runs from 7 am until 7 pm (EDT). The 12 hour duration makes it possible for schools from many time zones to participate during their regular school hours.

Technical services and facilitation of the Megaconference Jr. event in Rockford, Illinois are provided through the collaborative efforts of the Burpee Museum, Rockford Public Schools and Engine Studio.

About Megaconference Jr.

Megaconference Jr. is the world's first all virtual K-12 videoconference event over Internet2 and highspeed networks around the world. This event is made possible by a volunteer team of technologists, students, teachers and staff. The Internet2 Commons Videoconferencing Service provides the high capacity multi-point videoconferencing technology that makes this event possible.