

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

Grant recipients are reminded that the end-of-year Program Evaluation Narrative (PEN) and Final Expenditure Report (FER) are due June 30.

Title II.D Formula grant program – Update regarding allocation amounts

District allocations for formula grants under the regular Title II.D (EETT) and the Title II.D-ARRA grant programs are now final and have been entered in ePeGS. In October 2009, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) adjusted the bypass contract and the state grant award for the regular Title II.D program and, in May 2010, finalized the bypass contract and adjusted the state grant amount for the Title II.D-ARRA grant program. While the change is slight, districts should note both final formula grant allocations are less than those estimated last summer – about 10 percent less in regular Title II.D funding and under one percent in the ARRA funding.

FY11 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

Proposed State and Federal ed-tech funding – Preliminary budget information and updates

At the state level, the proposed budget for next school year only includes capacity to operate the federal Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Program. With regards to federal funding, the FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act will fund the Title II.D program at \$100 million (representing a nearly two-thirds decrease).

- **FY11 Title II.D EETT Program – Reminder**

The 2010-11 Missouri program will be 100% competitive. Since the estimated appropriation is sufficient to grant continuation grants only, there was no call for new first-year applications.

While there won't be new formula funding for 2010-11, districts having remaining FY10 funds after June 30, 2010, should budget these carryover funds in their 2010-11 NCLB Consolidated applications.

- **FY12 Proposed Ed-tech Funding**

The Obama Administration's FY11 education budget request – funding that would be distributed to states and schools in 2011-12 – consolidates 38 education programs into 11 new program areas, with much of the funding awarded through competitive grants. If approved, the Title II.D EETT program would not be funded. However, the White House released the statement *A New Foundation for 21st*

<p>ESEA reauthorization proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NCES posts data on teacher use of ed-tech tools in 2009 ▪ ED releases videos highlighting successful school reform ▪ Project Tomorrow releases Educator results from 2009 Speak Up survey ▪ CDW-G and T.H.E. Journal post 2nd Key Ed-Tech Issue: Data Center ▪ Gartner report says education IT budgets growing ▪ Federal study finds Literacy Collaborative raises rates of learning by 32% ▪ FTC launches campaign to raise youth advertising literacy ▪ New test measures students' digital literacy ▪ Cengage Learning/ Eduventures study reveals educational technology use impacts student engagement and learning outcomes; more guidance, support and training needed <p>E-rate Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FY2010 Funding commitments ▪ FY2009 Funding commitments ▪ USAC Annual Report <p>MoDLA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2010 The Future is Now: <i>Taking the Next Step in 21st-Century Learning</i> <p>eMINTS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ eThemes has a new look and a new address 	<p><i>Century Learning: Education Technology Investments in the 2011 Budget</i> that emphasizes commitment to educational technology. According to this document, "The President strongly believes that technology, when used creatively and effectively, can transform education..." It makes a broad array of Department of Education programs, including the \$500 million "Investing in Innovation" Fund, eligible for technology-related investments; encourages the infusion of educational technology across a broad range of programs in order to improve teaching and learning; and plans to build capacity at the state and local level to support better uses of technology for efficient and effective transfer of knowledge. See: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/edtech%20final.pdf</p> <p>Federal Budget Update – New</p> <p>In April-May, several events took place that represent a strong showing of support from the Senate for FY11 appropriations and could also help solidify support for a Title II.D-like program in ESEA reauthorization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) secured 20 co-signers of a letter urging colleagues to preserve Title II.D at a funding level of at least \$500 million. (April 15) • The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), ISTE, CoSN, and nearly 70 other organizations and companies submitted coalition letters to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of Title II.D at the \$500 million funding level. (April 30) [http://www.nsba.org/MainMenu/Advocacy/FederalLaws/EducationTechnologyERate/011110-Letter.aspx] • 700 educators and organizations from across the U.S. "tweeted for Ed Technology," sending more than 1,550 messages in support of Title II.D funding to key members of Congress. (May 13) • In back-to-back Capitol Hill briefings hosted by Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) and Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA), and organized by SETDA, state educational technology leaders from Alabama, Michigan, and Virginia highlighted key trends from the recently released 2010 SETDA National Educational Technology Trends Report "<i>Innovation through State Leadership</i>," and illustrated the crucial and catalytic role the Title II.D program plays in state and national school reform and improvement efforts. Panelists also discussed the need for sustaining the longstanding state-federal partnership in support of state and local educational technology leadership and capacity to ensure continued innovation and improvement in teaching and learning for all students. (May 17) <p>FY11 Safe Schools Program – Program not funded for FY11</p> <p>STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS</p> <p>Missouri HB 1543 adds cyberbullying to district anti-bullying policies http://house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/bills101/bilsum/truly/sHB1543T.htm</p> <p>Just before the 2010 session ended, the Missouri General Assembly passed CCS SS#2 SCS HCS#2 HB 1543, a bill containing 16 provisions that change the laws</p>
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- eMINTS partners with Learning Point Associates for i3 grant proposal
- Summer events
- Graduates of the eMINTS PD4ETS program
- Congratulations to El Dorado Springs student – national winner of Doodle 4 Google contest
- eMINTS events on the website

Regular Featured Items

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities
- Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects
- From the Mailbag
- Updated eTHEMES

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regarding elementary and secondary education. Provision (5) adds “cyberbullying” and electronic communications to the list of required elements for school district anti-bullying policies.

El Dorado Springs third-grader wins Doodle 4 Google contest

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/05/2010-doodle-4-google-winner-makenzie.html>

Google announced May 26 that Makenzie Melton, a third grader at El Dorado Springs R-2 Schools won the Doodle 4 Google contest, triumphing over more than 33,000 student submissions from all over the country. The contest invited K-12 students to work their artistic will upon the Google homepage logo, exercising their creative imaginations around the theme: “If I could do anything, I would...” Makenzie’s winning design, a colored-pencil creation entitled “Rainforest Habitat,” expressed concern that “the rainforest is in danger and it is not fair to the plants and animals.” Prizes for winning the competitive include a \$15,000 college scholarship, a netbook computer, and a \$25,000 technology grant for a new computer lab at her school. To view Makenzie’s TODAY show video, see: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/37374215#37374215>

North Kansas City district featured in April 2010 *District Administration*

<http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=2380>

The North Kansas City School District’s ed-tech professional development program is featured in an article focusing “*Reaching Digital Natives on Their Terms: Making your technology environment student centered.*” Janet Herdman, executive director of information and technology services, describes how the district provides intensive training annually to help teachers apply technology to curriculum. Teachers meet once a month for 60 hours of training, with classroom support provided by staff development coordinators, and principals are trained in a condensed version of what teachers are taught, for two hours every month, so “they will see when they go into a classroom where teaching strategies are changing and there’s a lot of noise with kids up and moving around.”

Kirkwood district featured in May 2010 *Learning and Leading with Technology*

<http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Publications>

In the article “Implementation that Builds Tech Know-How,” technology facilitator Alissa Parrish explains how the Kirkwood School District uses interactive whiteboard (IWB) initiatives to encourage ongoing professional learning. After purchasing two portable and rarely used IWBs, the districts decided “whiteboard implementation done right” should involve buy-in from school leaders, technical support, and teacher professional development that focuses both on hardware management and software integration. Classrooms have become interactive learning environments with whiteboard technology at the center of content delivery and enhanced learning. Instructional leadership, innovation in lesson planning, and enhanced communication were among the returns on the technology investment.

Major foundations commit \$506 million to education innovation

<https://www.foundationregistryi3.org/>

To dramatically improve student learning outcomes, 12 national foundations have committed \$506 million in 2010 funds to leverage ED’s \$650 million Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund aimed at similarly aligned investments, making more than \$1 billion available to help expand promising innovations in education that support teachers, administrators, technology tools, and school design across K-12 schools. The foundations launched **The Foundation Registry i3** – a new online application aimed at simplifying the process for organizations seeking matching foundation funds for their i3 proposals.

New Horizons of St. Louis offers MOREnet organizations special pricing

New Horizons of St. Louis offers MOREnet organizations special pricing for classes and certifications that include

State and National News, cont'd.

CompTIA, Cisco CCNA, Microsoft Technical Courses and specified Microsoft and Adobe classes. For more information, contact New Horizons at 866-882-7713 or information.stlouis@newhorizons.com.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**Obama Administration posts research behind ESEA reauthorization proposal**

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2010/05/research-behind-the-obama-administration's-proposal-for-reauthorizing-the-elementary-and-secondary-education-act-esea/>

In early May, the Obama administration released a series of documents outlining the research that supports the proposals in its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These research summaries will serve to inform conversations around ESEA reauthorization and the reforms that research shows are necessary.

These documents outline the research base around each section of the blueprint, including:

- **College- and Career-Ready Students PDF** (749K) – [Addresses programs related to] College- and Career-Ready Students, School Turnaround Grants
- **Great Teachers and Great Leaders PDF** (920K) – Effective Teachers and Leaders, Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund, Teacher and Leader Pathways
- **Meeting the Needs of English Learners and Other Diverse Learners PDF** (662K) – English Learners, Diverse Learners
- **A Complete Education PDF** (1.17M) – Literacy, STEM, A Well-Rounded Education, College Pathways and Accelerated Learning
- **Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students PDF** (891K) – Promise Neighborhoods, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students
- **Fostering Innovation and Excellence PDF** (840K) – Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, Supporting Effective Charter Schools, Promoting Public School Choice.

NCES posts data on teacher use of ed-tech tools in 2009

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010040>

The report *“Teachers' Use of Educational Technology in U.S. Public Schools: 2009”* presents data from a spring 2009 teacher Fast Response Survey System survey on the availability and use of educational technology. This includes information on the use of computers and Internet access in the classroom; availability and use of computing devices, software, and school or district networks (including remote access) by teachers; students' use of educational technology; teachers' preparation to use educational technology for instruction; and technology-related professional development activities.

Findings included:

- 97% of teachers had one or more computers located in the classroom every day – with a ratio of 5.3 students per computer, while 54 percent could bring computers into the classroom
- 93% percent of the computers located in the classroom every day and 96% of mobile computers had Internet access
- 40% of teachers or their students used classroom computers during instructional time often
- 94% of teachers entered grades in a district or school network-based system, while 93% entered attendance and 90% entered results of student assessments
- 97% of teachers had remote access to school email, with 85% accessing email sometimes or often; 81% of teachers had remote access to student data, with 61% using this access sometimes or often
- 96% of teachers sometimes or often used word processing software, 94% used the Internet, 80% used software for imaging student records; 63% used software for making presentations, and 61% used spreadsheets and graphing programs

ED releases videos highlighting successful school reform

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2010/03/whats-possible-turning-around-americas-lowest-achieving-schools/>

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is sharing underperforming schools' success stories in a series of online

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

videos. The videos aim to show how difficult changes in schools can lead to dramatic improvements in student achievement, using the four models endorsed by ED's Title I School Improvement Grant program. Watch the first videos posted to learn how the communities of Mobile, Alabama; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Chattanooga, Tennessee were successful in implementing turnaround, restart and transformation models to revitalize and transform their lowest performing schools.

Project Tomorrow releases Educator results from 2009 Speak Up survey

<http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/pdfs/SU09UnleashingTheFuture.pdf>

The nonprofit group Project Tomorrow released results from its annual Speak Up survey of teachers and administrators May 5. The report, *"Unleashing the Future: Educators 'Speak Up' about the use of Emerging Technologies for Learning* which follows an earlier report on survey data from students and parents, includes responses from online surveys administered last fall in more than 5,700 schools and -- for the first time -- 71 schools of education. The results suggest that schools are making progress on integrating technology into the curriculum -- and reveal key disparities in how students, educators, administrators, and even aspiring teachers think of various technology tools.

According to Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, "administrators and teachers are starting to buy in to the student vision [for using technology in education] -- either prompted by their own personal use of the same technologies or because of financial pressures and national priorities that are making them rethink current practices." The next generation of teachers might find their strongest allies among district administrators, instead of fellow teachers or their principals. Overall, district administrators were more likely than principals or teachers to recognize the value of using mobile devices for learning, the survey suggested. Still, while aspiring teachers are more likely than their future colleagues to use digital resources in their classrooms, the survey results suggest that colleges of education have some work to do in preparing future teachers for 21st-century instruction.

CDW-G and T.H.E. Journal post 2nd Key Ed-Tech Issue: Data Center

<http://thejournal.com/pages/cdwg/data-center.aspx>

CDW-G and its partners, in association with T.H.E. Journal, presents part two of a four-part series that examines key issues of technology within K-12 education. Each quarter, they provide an in-depth look at best practices from school districts that are leaders in areas crucial to the success of today's schools:

- Part 1: Security
- Part 2: Networks and Data Centers
- Part 3: 21st Century Classrooms
- Part 4: 1 to 1 Computing

Part two looks at rethinking the data center from planning, rebuilding, and settling in. District examples help illustrate how centralizing technology and virtualization provide opportunities to redesign and secure data centers, saving money and increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Gartner report says education IT budgets growing

<http://www.gartner.com/DisplayDocument?ref=clientFriendlyUrl&id=1366213>

According to information released by research firm Gartner, IT spending in education will grow 4.1 percent, or about \$2.53 billion, barring any further recession. The report, *"Forecast Alert: Enterprise IT Spending by Vertical Industry Market Worldwide, 2008-2014, 1Q10 Update,"* forecasts worldwide enterprise IT spending across all vertical segments to increase by \$96.7 billion to nearly \$2.43 trillion in 2010. The overall average growth rate will be 4.1 percent -- the same rate as for education -- after a decline of 5.6 percent in overall worldwide IT spending from 2008 to 2009.

Federal study finds Literacy Collaborative raises rates of learning by 32%

http://www.literacycollaborative.org/news/lc/largescale_federally_funded_st_1.html

A \$3 million, 4-year value-added study of Literacy Collaborative effects on teaching and student learning was recently completed. The study, funded by ED's Institute of Education Science (IES), showed increases in teacher expertise and the average rate of student learning over three years.

- Students' average rates of learning increased by 16% in the first implementation year, 28% in the second

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

- implementation year, and 32% in the third implementation year.
- Teacher expertise increased substantially, and the rate of improvement was predicted by the amount of coaching a teacher received.
- Professional communication amongst teachers in the schools increased over the three years of implementation, and the literacy coordinators became more central in the schools' communication networks.

FTC launches campaign to raise youth advertising literacy

<http://www.admongo.gov/about.aspx>

Admongo, created by the Federal Trade Commission, is a new campaign to raise advertising literacy among the nation's tweens. A game-based website designed for children 8 to 12 years of age, teachers can use Admongo's free curriculum to help 5th and 6th grade students recognize, analyze, and understand advertising. Watch the [video](#) or read the [announcement](#) from the FTC for more information.

New test measures students' digital literacy

iCritical Thinking Certification, created by the Educational Testing Service and Certiport helps instructors gauge students' ability to assess and report on information, thereby assisting instructors gauge students' 21st-century skills. The test reveals whether or not a person is able to combine technical skills with experiences and knowledge. Designed for students with at least a 10th grade reading level, *iCritical Thinking* allows students to demonstrate the ability to think critically within technology-enabled academic and workplace environments. About an hour in length, the test features 14 tasks based on real-world scenarios such as extracting information from a database, drawing conclusions from a spreadsheet, or composing an email based on findings—tasks students would be expected to do in the 21st-century workplace. The test simulates the use of common, vendor-neutral applications to measure students' information and communications technology (ICT) literacy skills. Each task takes about four minutes to complete. The test produces individual score and group report summaries for instructors. For more information, visit http://www.certiport.com/portal/desktopdefault.aspx?page=common/pagelibrary/icritical_thinking.htm.

From eCAMPUS news <http://www.ecampusnews.com/>

Cengage Learning/Eduventures study reveals educational technology use impacts student engagement and learning outcomes; more guidance, support and training needed

<http://www.ecampusnews.com/top-news/survey-digital-natives-need-more-it-support/2/?login=7ae181786d?login=7ae181786d/>

A recent survey by Cengage Learning/Eduventures entitled "Instructors and Students: Technology Use, Engagement and Learning Outcomes," reports on college students' and instructors' perceptions about using digital tools in the classroom. Student responses indicate a need for more technology support. This may come as a surprise to instructors who may feel the young students come prepared to take on the digital world without much assistance. To read more about the report, visit

<http://www.cengage.com/press/release/20100407.html> and <http://www.ecampusnews.com/?p=30707&preview=true>.

For comments about the report from Mark Prensky, who brought the term "digital native" to the forefront, <http://www.marcprensky.com/default.asp>.

E-RATE PROGRAM**FY2010 Funding commitments**

USAC released FY2010 **Wave 1** Funding Commitment Decision letters (FCDLS) on **May 26** – and **Wave 2, June 2**. These waves included over \$426 million and \$69 million in funding commitments for approved Priority 1 (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) requests at all discount levels. See related press release at: http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/sl/pdf/Press-Releases/FY2010-Wave-One-release.pdf.

FY2009 Funding commitments

USAC released FY2009 **Wave 54** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLS) **May 25**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 78% and denials at /below 69%. To-date, FY2009 commitments total over \$2.71 billion.

Use USAC's Automated Search of Commitments (ASC) tool to search for funding commitment information by funding year (FY), wave number, state, and/or applicant name.

E-rate Program, cont'd.

See: <http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/search-tools/search-commitments/>.

USAC Annual Report

According to this recently released USAC Annual Report for calendar year 2009, Missouri schools and libraries received \$9.577 million in commitments and \$26.168 million in disbursements. USAC administers four programs under the federal Universal Services Fund (Schools and Libraries, Rural Health Care, High Cost, and Low Income) that provide affordable access to telecommunications services. For all four programs, Missouri received \$143.582 million in disbursements in 2009, and \$1.375 billion for all four programs for years 1998 through 2009. To read the full report, see: http://www.usac.org/_res/documents/about/pdf/usac-annual-report-2009.pdf

MoDLA UPDATE

submitted by Kristie Smalley

2010 The Future Is Now: Taking the Next Step in 21st-Century Learning

The MoDLA conference attracts attendees interested in all aspects distance learning from K-12 schools, higher education institutions, non-profit organizations, state government agencies, the military and private industry. As a participant, you'll assist in creating an innovative and informative conference and learn about the latest trends in distance learning.

- **Location:** University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield, MO
- **Dates:** July 22-23, 2010
- **Registration:** <http://muconf.missouri.edu/modla/>
- **2010 Keynote Speaker:** Ray Schroeder – Professor Emeritus and Director of the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service University of Illinois at Springfield

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

eThemes has a new look and a new address

Next time you visit the eThemes website, you will see the service has a new look. The original eThemes has been replaced with a new and improved interface. All the features and resources are still the same and you can continue to use the old URL or you can use the new one. All of your bookmarks for eThemes resources will continue to work and are not affected by the new look.

New features include icons with each resource where you can report a broken link or an inappropriate website. Also, you will see we have added links on the right hand side of each page, such as This Week in Newsy -- a database of current event lesson plans with videos; Teacher Stories -- interviews with teachers about how they are using technology in their classrooms; and Kid Tools and Strategy Tool - tools supporting students success and making teachers work easier.

Visit eThemes at <http://ethemes.missouri.edu>

eMINTS partners with Learning Point Associates for i3 grant proposal

The eMINTS National Center partnered with Learning Point Associates <http://www.learningpt.org/> recently in the development and submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) program <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

The proposal is to do a five-year study of the effects of eMINTS on rural school districts in Missouri. If funded, the project will be an experimental design to study how eMINTS impacts teacher practice and student performance in grades 7 and 8 across 60 districts in the state.

The U.S. Department of Education expects to receive almost 1,700 applications from all over the United States and will fund proposals in the following categories:

eMINTS Update, cont'd.

1. Development – to support high-potential and relatively untested practices, strategies or programs whose efficacy should be systematically studied.
2. Validation – to support practices, strategies or programs that show promise but for which there is currently only moderate evidence of having a significant effect on improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college completion rates.
3. Scale-Up – to fund the “scale-up” of practices, strategies, or programs for which there is strong evidence of effect on student achievement and the other student issues listed for Validation proposals.

The eMINTS proposal was submitted as a Validation application. The grant competition required that a Missouri school district partner with eMINTS and the University of Missouri. New Franklin R-II school district agreed to partner with eMINTS to submit the proposal. Email and letters were sent to nearly 190 potentially qualifying Missouri rural school districts as part of the grant application development process. Letters of interest were received from 68 districts interested in being participants. Applications for the i3 program will be read in July and decisions about funding awards are expected in late August 2010.

Summer events

Registration is open now for professional development opportunities facilitated by eMINTS National Center staff. Space is limited. Visit <http://www.emints.org/events/> for details and online registration.

Veteran eMINTS teacher institutes provide a structured opportunity for veteran eMINTS teachers to connect and share ideas with teachers from other districts and eMINTS National Center staff.

- Columbia on July 12-13
- Springfield on July 22-23

Graduates of the eMINTS PD4ETS program are invited to register for a 2-day camp filled with updates and training information, facilitated by eMINTS National Center staff in Columbia on August 2-3.

Congratulations to El Dorado Springs student – national winner of Doodle 4 Google contest

Congratulations to Makenzie Melton and El Dorado Springs! A third grader from an eMINTS classroom in El Dorado Springs, MO, was named the national winner of the Doodle 4 Google contest recently on the Today show. See the clip at <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/37374215#37374215>

Makenzie's teacher is Barbara Walsh, an eMINTS teacher and participant in PD4ETS program. Makenzie's artwork is the featured doodle on Google through July 8. More information about Makenzie's win and the regional winners' designs can be seen at <http://www.google.com/doodle4google/>.

eMINTS events on the website

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events/>.

Contact eMINTS by Web <http://www.emints.org/events/>, E-mail emints-info@emints.org, or phone – 573-884-7202.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010	Conference
July 22 – 23	MoDLA Annual Meeting: The Future Is Now: <i>Taking the Next Step in 21st-Century Learning</i> University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield, MO http://www.modla.org/
October 3 – 5	MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) 2010: Winning at Instructional Technology Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/content/mitc

GRANT FUNDING and CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date 2010	Grant Program
Opens for voting February 1	The Pepsi Refresh Project is hosting a grants program focusing on health, arts and culture, food and shelter, the planet, neighborhoods, and education. Each month in 2010, Pepsi will fund 32 projects, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Proposals are being accepted as of January 13, and full details are available on the Pepsi Refresh Project website: http://www.refresheverything.com/ .
February 1, June 1, and October 15 June 10	NEA Learning and Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/ The Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth category National Endowment for the Arts offers funding for projects that help children and youth acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art. Funded projects apply national or state arts education standards. http://www.grantsalert.com/grants.cfm?id=4&gid=33438
June 14	Nature of Learning Grants to use National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues, utilize field experiences and student-led stewardship projects http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=charter_programs_list&CONTENTID=15106&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm
June 30	Apps for Healthy Kids \$40,000 in prizes to create innovative, fun and engaging software tools and games that encourage children, especially “tweens” (ages 9-12), directly or through their parents to make more nutritious food choices and be more physically active. http://www.appsforhealthykids.com/
May, August, November	Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants
June 1, October 15, February 1	NEA Foundation Green Grants This year the program emphasizes “green” projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm
June 10	National Endowment for the Arts: Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP11/LITA.html The NEA Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth program funds projects that help children and youth acquire appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art, and ensure the application of national, state, or local arts education standards. Maximum award: \$150,000. Eligibility: school-based or community-based projects.
August 1	Toshiba America Foundation Classroom Innovators Grants (TAF) is supporting innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and successful for students. http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp
August 1	2011 ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award recognizes creative and committed teachers and administrators under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the lives of children. http://www.ascd.org/programs/Outstanding_Young_Educator_Award/OYEA_Information.aspx

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

August 15	Open Meadows Foundation Grants to Benefit Women and Girls Grants up to \$2,000 to projects that: are designed and implemented by women and girls; reflect the diversity of the community served by the project in both its leadership and organization; promote building community power; promote gender, racial, social, economic and/or environmental justice; and have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. http://www.openmeadows.org/
August 30	Project Learning Tree <i>Greenworks!</i> Pollinator Garden Grants to engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html
October 31	CVS Foundation CVS Caremark Community Grants targets public schools for children with disabilities that promote a greater level of inclusion in student activities and extracurricular programs. http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/community-grants/public-schools
October 1	Grants for Music Education The ASCAP Foundation is now considering proposals from organizations engaging in music education and talent development programs that support music education for aspiring songwriters and composers. http://www.ascapfoundation.org/grants.html
Email toyotateach@iie.org to be notified	Toyota International Teacher Program http://www.toyota4education.com/
Variety	Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dgliteracy.com/grant-program/
Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or two months prior to proposed start date.	Actuarial Foundation: Advancing Student Achievement Grants http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/for_teachers.shtml The Actuarial Foundation Advancing Student Achievement grant program brings together actuaries and educators in local classrooms with the belief that interaction with real-world mentors will boost student interest and achievement in math. The Actuarial Foundation can provide a local network of actuaries ready to participate, as well as suggestions on how to integrate math concepts from the workplace into the classroom. Schools applying for grants will be given wide latitude in designing programs that enhance learning and create a "love of math" in each student. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: All schools willing to undertake a math-mentoring program involving local actuaries as volunteers are eligible. However, in order for a program to be viable, there must be a sufficient population of volunteer actuaries within easy traveling distance to make a regular program possible. Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or two months prior to proposed start date.
Ongoing	After School Advantage Program from GTECH http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/after_school.asp
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	The Coca-Cola Foundation Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/application_guidelines.html

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- Ongoing** **CHS Foundation Mini-grants**
The CHS Foundation grants up to \$1,000 to innovative academic and leadership programs that strengthen student learning and enhance professional development. Examples include: leadership training opportunities, mentorship programs, professional development experiences and student fundraising efforts.
<http://www.chsfoundation.org/scholarshipprog.html#minigrants>
- Ongoing** **ING Foundation Educational Grants**
<http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm>
- Ongoing** **Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants**
http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
- Ongoing** **Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant**
<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>
- Ongoing** **Motorola Community Grants**
<http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736>
- Ongoing** **Motorola Foundation**
<http://www.motorola.com/giving>
- Ongoing** **NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants**
http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
- Ongoing** **NEA Learning & Leadership Grants**
<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>
- Ongoing** **Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths**
http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
- Ongoing** **RGK Foundation Education Grants**
<http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants>
- Ongoing** **Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants**
http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
- Ongoing** **State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants**
http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp
- Ongoing** **Teach@15 Award**
http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm
- Ongoing** **Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants**
<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites:

An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian.

<http://foundationcenter.org/>

AT&T Aspire <http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7736>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/>

The 2009-10 **Dell Funding Calendar**, published by Tech and Learning, can be found at <http://www.techlearning.com/article/21102>. Check it out for grant opportunities, grant writing ideas and strategy tips.

The online version of **eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>

Edu4U is a resource for people who want to enhance teaching and learning for all students with the power of technology. Find information, resources and fellow travelers to help achieve your educational goals. <http://en.community.dell.com/groups/edu4u/default.aspx>

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org>.

For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning** <http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Fundsnet Online Services: <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=6>
Computers & technology – <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=4>

Grant writing and funding resources are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

The **grants.gov** site is a tremendous resource for educators. It is updated weekly and contains a comprehensive listing of federal grants for schools. <http://www.grants.gov>

Grantsandfunding.com offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>

Grantwrangler.com: online listing service of grants and awards for teachers and students. New mygrantwrangler.com is a social-networking site for both grant seekers and grant givers to share insights and experiences – <http://www.grantwrangler.com/>.

Helpforschools.com (sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education and Mid-continent Comprehensive Center) – “grants knowledgebase”– <http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/login.shtml?redirect=http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/>

In each issue of **The Education World Grants Newsletter** <http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>, Don Peek from **The School Funding Center** [http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0\)](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0)) recommends a Web resource, book, software program, or another useful tool of interest to the grants community. This resource is a Web page from **Teacher Tap**, part of **Eduscapes**. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>

ISTE: Educator Resources: Funding – <http://www.iste.org/>

Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

MultiMedia Schools, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools>

National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>

NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>

Non-profit guides: “grant writing tools for non-profit organizations” <http://www.npguides.org/links.htm>

Northwest Education Technology Consortium (NETC): “Grants and funding”
<http://www.netc.org/grants/index.html>

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at
http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

SchoolGrants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

The Grant Guru <http://www.techlearning.com/article/15512> Gary Carnow is starting a new grant writing series. First up, Building Our Grantseeker’s Toolkit.

The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations.
<http://grants.gov>

Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program
http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html

Technogrants.com – <http://www.technogrants.com/>

Top Grants You Might Not Know About <http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/editoria/116-grants-and-contests/346-hotchalk-grants-and-contests>

THE Journal: Funding: <http://www.thejournal.com/the/topics/funding/>

The School Funding Center is a subscription based database for federal, state, and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's Successful School Grants, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country.
[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

Toyota USA Foundation
http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/

U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/>

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org>.

Contact RoundTrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us, or (314) 773-6934.

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

<http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>

Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org or (314) 692-1274, or read the New Links blog at

<http://www.csdtechpd.wordpress.com>

The Fairfax Network <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/>, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming creates programming for educators to use in the classroom, and for public television stations and cable systems. The lineup includes quality K-12 enrichment, parenting, and staff development programs. Many of the shows come with additional resource information, teacher guides, and classroom activities created to fit seamlessly into the curriculum. Fairfax Network programs are free to schools, school systems, cable companies, and public television programmers.

Collaborations Around the Planet (CAPspace) is a social networking tool for educational videoconferencing built into the new Read Around the Planet registration system.

<http://projects.twice.cc/index.php>

Global Nomads Group creates education programs and media about global issues for youth using interactive technologies in the classroom, such as live videoconferencing and multi-media videos.

<http://www.gng.org/home.html>

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab. <http://virtualfieldtrip.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home2/00front.htm>
- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

SAS Curriculum Pathways offers free online middle school curriculum

<http://www.sascurriculumpathways.com/products/pathways/>

SAS Curriculum Pathways, which offers inquiry-based activities in English, math, science, social studies, and Spanish and is used by more than 41,000 teachers in 8,000 high schools has expanded its free online curriculum to include middle grades. This online instructional resource for grades 8-12 has been available to schools free of charge since December 2008, and soon will include content for sixth and seventh grades. This CODie Award winning website provides lessons with an inquiry-based approach intended to develop students' higher order thinking skills. Curriculum Pathways' lessons, simulations and interactive activities provide teachers with engaging supplemental resources.

A KCLASS Act

The eGFI Newsletter reports NASA software engineer Chuck Lostrosio has created a computer game-like tool called

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

the Kennedy Launch Academy Simulation System, or KLASS, which allows students to assume the role of a mission control engineer while practicing math, science, and engineering skills. More information about the tool can be found at <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/nasa-simulation/>

The eGFI Newsletter is brought to you by the American Society for Engineering Education <http://asee.org/> (ASEE), an organization committed to promoting and enhancing efforts to improve K-12 STEM and engineering education.

Einztein <http://www.einztein.com/> a nonprofit that offers online search services focused on education content, is launching a public beta of an online course library. The library serves as a one-stop campus from which online learners can easily explore the universe of free online courses delivered by any combination of text, audio, video and other media. Whether you already know the course you're looking for, or you just have a general idea, the purpose of Einztein is to make online courses easy to find. All courses featured on Einztein are hand-picked by their editorial team based on their completeness and quality.

From Education World <http://www.educationworld.com/> Site Reviews <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/>

- **Energized Learning** <http://energizedlearning.lbl.gov/EnergizedLearning.html>
Energy topics, including a home energy audit tool. Grade Level: 6-8, 9-12
- **Oceans Alive** <http://www.mos.org/oceans/index.html>
Making a very big topic (oceans!) more easily understood. Grade Level: K-2, 3-5, 6-8
- **Paleontology Portal** <http://www.paleoportal.org/>
A resource for the study of fossils. Grade Level: Pre-K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.
- **The Official Roald Dahl Site** <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2005/r0305-23.shtml> Everything you want to know about Roald Dahl and his work. The biographical information is extensive and includes a photo gallery and audio of an interview with the writer. Teachers will also find resources for using Dahl's books in the classroom including lesson plan ideas, classroom activities based on the books, ideas from other teachers, and more. All sorts of interactive activities are available for students, including games based on incidents in familiar books, a monthly poll, the latest news, and postcards to send to friends. The "Books and Stuff" section provides visitors the opportunity to search for a particular work, such as James and the Giant Peach or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and find a synopsis of the story, reader reviews, and a chance to add their own review.
- **Visual Math Learning** <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2006/r0506-22.shtml>
Free interactive tutorials for elementary and middle school pre-algebra students. Visual Math Learning is a great resource for teachers, students, and parents. The tutorials can be used in the classroom as a supplement to the curriculum, by parents helping their children with homework, or by anyone who is homeschooling their child. The tutorials are animated and visually teach concepts such as number bases, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, integers, natural numbers, and more. The games and exercises include interactive multiplication, addition, subtraction and division tables, factograms, equivalent fractions, and more. Rounding out the site is a list of suggested related resources on the Web.
- **Visual Proofs** <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2006/r0506-15.shtml>
This site, with lessons and activities on the history of forensic medicine, is sure to spark the interests of students as well as anyone interested in the area of forensic medicine. The Exhibition section explores the history of forensics from its rise to the technologies of surveillance to the new forensic science to public perceptions. The Galleries include significant cases, technologies, biographies, artifacts, media and exhibition images. Visitors can view video clips of an actual autopsy or see medical examiners at work. Technologies explore the key accomplishments in forensics including DNA and toxicology. The Education section offers three online activities for students that explore forensic developments, techniques and careers. There are also three lesson plans for middle and high school students that promote active learning and explore the stories of people, technology and science that have contributed to the development of modern forensic techniques. Additionally, a resource section offers links to a k-12 bibliography, archived interviews featuring forensic topics, and Web links to other resources.

FTC Helps Prepare Kids for a World Where Advertising Is Everywhere <http://www.admongo.gov/>
With American youth exposed to more advertising than ever before, the Federal Trade Commission is kicking off a new advertising literacy campaign to help older children understand the ads they see and become smarter

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

consumers. The campaign is targeted to “tweens” aged 8 to 12, and includes a game-based website at Admongo.gov, a curriculum tied to national standards of learning in language arts and social studies that teachers can use to “ad-ucate” students, a library of fictional ads that can be used as teaching tools, and activities for parents and kids to do together. All these materials are free and in the public domain.

Students can learn how to “Fight Bac(terial)” <http://www.fooddetectives.com/> from New Mexico State University Media Productions <http://mediaproductions.nmsu.edu/> Students join the Food Detectives in investigating food borne illnesses. The site has five animated music videos (just click on the TV set). And students can learn about the Food Detectives PT, Fridge, Ima Basin, Thermy, and Slick by clicking on the sign on top of the file cabinet. Then, they can help the Food Detectives solve four cases (each requires the Flash plug-in). When students have solved the mysteries, they can print out a certificate. Last but not least, click on the coffee cup to locate a great bibliography of related kids' books and classroom activities. Also available in Spanish.

From the School Library Journal <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/>

- **Discovery Education teams up with Take Me Fishing**
Discovery Education has teamed up with the Take Me Fishing campaign <http://www.takemefishing.org/> to create Explore the Blue, <http://exploretheblue.discoveryeducation.com/> an online initiative encouraging kids to take part in on-the-water activities and aquatic conservation efforts. Just in time for summer vacation, the first materials from Explore the Blue include activities teachers and librarians can share with parents and students to keep the learning going even when school isn't in session. Model boat building, map reading, and journaling are just a few of the featured activities, and if it's a rainy day, kids can happily occupy themselves with online games like Fishfinder Pro and Create-a-Fish. Later this summer, additional instructional materials designed specifically for classroom use by educators will be added, including a collection of cross-curricular lesson plans, videos, multimedia content, activities, and worksheets aligned to state education standards. Also in the works—an interactive “ecosystem” game as well as a digital essay contest featuring students' fishing and boating experiences.

From Tech and Learning <http://www.techlearning.com/>

- **Some Google Search Engines You Might Not Know About By: Steven W. Anderson**
<http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/29542>
 - Google Books <http://books.google.com/books?hl=en> Look here for
 - books that the authors have either agreed to have them hosted for free or
 - out of print volumes not easily found in another place,
 - magazines, both new and older,
 - classics written by Dickens, Longfellow, Defoe and others to view online or download in the ePub format.
 Create a bookshelf and share books from your bookshelf with other users so if you are a teacher you can create a custom book list and share it with your students.
 - Google Blog Search <http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch?hl=en> Enter a search term in the box for just blogs related to that topic.
 - Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en> for
 - peer-reviewed, scholarly articles
 - legal opinions, recent research or journal articles
 - try the advanced search
 - Google Patent Search <http://www.google.com/patents> a great search engine for science or technology teachers

Those are just four of many others to check out at <http://www.google.com/intl/en/options/>

Cross posted at the <http://web20classroom.blogspot.com/2010/04/some-helpful-google-search-engines-you.html>.

From eSchoolNews.com <http://www.eschoolnews.com>

- **Microsoft's Free Mouse Mischief tool lets students collaborate during class.**
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/04/30/free-tool-lets-students-participate-during-class/> Joining in the effort to keep students engaged in the classroom, Microsoft on April 30 announced a new addition to its

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PowerPoint software that allows students to participate in classroom presentations. Free of charge, the new tool, called Mouse Mischief, <http://www.microsoft.com/multipoint/mouse-mischief/> allows teachers to add multiple choice, yes/no, and drawing questions to their presentations. Students then use any computer mice (any device from the school will work) to answer these questions. The tool also allows for whole-class or individual student responses. Also available are 25 PowerPoint question templates available at: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT103751791033.aspx>

- **“Like Facebook, but for Learning”** <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/05/03/like-facebook-but-for-learning/>
Grockit <http://grockit.com> is one of the first social-networking study sites aimed at engaging 8th to 12th grade students in a social networking environment where the topic is education. Students participate in collaborative group study forums online in a variety of subjects, and can earn points and online recognition for participating and helping other students. By using a familiar platform, Grockit taps in to the students’ desire to interact with peers and allows them to collaborate online. For more information, visit <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/05/03/like-facebook-but-for-learning/>.
- **New free computer games promote civics education** The free iCivics program <http://www.icivics.org/>, based at Georgetown University Law School, uses computer games to put a fun spin on learning about government. Games on iCivics include “Do I Have A Right,” in which the player runs a virtual firm specializing in constitutional law; “Executive Command,” which offers a chance to play president; “Supreme Decision,” about the Supreme Court; “Branches of Power,” which gives the player control of all three branches of government; and “LawCraft,” in which the player is a member of Congress. To read the full article, visit <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/05/27/new-computer-games-promote-civics-education/>
- **Games For Change**, a project to promote computer and video games for social change. <http://www.gamesforchange.org/>
- Visit the **Online Learning: One Pathway to Success** resource center, a collection of stories from the eSchoolNews archives to help school leaders better understand and navigate the online-learning landscape <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/04/09/online-learning-one-pathway-to-success/>

The PBS Habitable Planet Website <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/> wins prize.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Science magazine have awarded The PBS Habitable Planet website its SPORE prize, the science prize for online resources in education. The prize recognizes freely available online materials that enrich science education. The Habitable Planet was one of 12 selected from an international field by a panel of 16 scientists and nine teachers. Science’s Editor-in-Chief, Bruce Alberts, writes that the prize was started because “being an outstanding science educator is as demanding and valuable to society as being an exceptional research scientist.” An essay about the site appears in the June issue of Science magazine and can be viewed online (by AAAS members and Science subscribers and registrants) at <http://www.sciencemag.org/special/spore>.

Infrared Zoo Gallery http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/image_galleries/ir_zoo/

This site brings you infrared images of animals so that you can see the difference between warm and cold-blooded animals. Browse via the category of animals: Birds, Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles, and Insects & Arachnids or follow the Learn More About Warm and Cold-blooded Animals link. Site also includes a link to Lesson Plans.

School Town <http://schooltown.net/> is an award-winning, student-centered, 21st century learning environment that is improving education in schools of all sizes across the country. School Town, which has more than 150 school customers, recently earned quite a bit of good news, including:

- An honor as one of two best new education software companies in America
- A nomination as one of two best social media education software companies
- Two great, high-profile product reviews

Here are the details:

- **Best Newcomers:** School Town, one of three finalists for EdNET’s Rookie of the Year Award, <http://www.schooldata.com/ednetawards.asp> was honored as first runner up during the May 19 awards ceremony. The Rookie of the Year category recognizes start-up ventures deemed by judges to have the greatest promise to become a significant player in the industry. Nelson Heller, president of EdNET, reported a record number of entries in three categories this year. “Narrowing those entries to just nine finalists was a

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challenge," said Heller.

- **In Company with the Wall Street Journal:** Young, rising companies typically don't earn nominations for a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Educational Publishers <http://www.aepweb.org/awards/finalists.htm>. Clearly, School Town isn't a typical educational start up; we are very proud of our nomination for this award, one of the most highly-regarded in our industry. School Town was nominated in the area of technology and new media, along with the Wall Street Journal's *WSJ On Campus*.
- **Buzz on the Street:** MMI gave School Town a 5-star product review <http://www.mmischools.com/Articles/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=67005>, and School Town enjoyed a very positive write up in the Dell community <http://en.community.dell.com/dell-blogs/b/education/archive/2010/05/19/exciting-and-effective-new-products-let-teachers-do-what-they-do-best-teach.aspx>.

What School Town Can Do

School Town's collaborative learning environment connects teachers, students and parents to help each child reach his or her potential.

School Town:

- **Integrates all learning tools** into one easy-to-use platform.
- **Increases teaching time** so that teachers get more done with less time and fewer resources.
- **Is a safe online community.** Students connect only to teachers, and other students who are invited by teachers.
- **Connects all major stakeholders:** students, teachers, admin people, parents and community members.
- **Is easy to roll out.** There is no need for staff in-service or offsite training to learn the system.
- **Offers low cost per student,** and saves money for schools and districts.

For a guided tour of School Town, register for a 60-day free trial at

<https://www1.schooltown.net/RegistrationV2/signup.aspx>. For more information, contact Michael A. Kritzman, President, at mkritzman@schooltown.net or (847) 943-9115

From Campus Technology <http://campustechnology.com/home.aspx>

- **18 Web 2.0 Tools for Instruction by Meg Lloyd** http://campustechnology.com/articles/2010/05/01/18-web-20-tools-for-instruction.aspx?sc_lang=en

In an article for Campus Technology, Meg Lloyd asked two web 2.0 gurus in higher education for their favorite tools that offer the most impact on instruction. All are easily accessible software tools with a low technology threshold, making them generally easy on tight IT or departmental budgets and personnel resources. While web 2.0 and social software tools are not always freeware and may require some investment of IT or help desk staff time, many have free or low-cost versions. Still, the main benefits of these tools include the ability to connect easily with students and share information widely via common web 2.0 interfaces. Though the list is sure to grow and change even before the ink dries for this issue of CT, these 18 apps are a useful starting point for those looking to delve beyond Facebook and Twitter in the classroom.

Sarah's Picks Sarah Robbins (aka "Intellagirl") is the director of emerging technologies at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University-Bloomington, where she also teaches MBA courses in digital and social media marketing. Here are her tools to try:

- **Magma** <http://mag.ma/> Application: Video aggregation. Cost: Free. Magma provides video aggregation capabilities from any source on the net. "Magma is an easy way to pull together a selection of videos for a class, whether the instructor chooses them or students contribute them. It has an RSS feed and tag search too, so it's easy to change the way you receive and organize the videos," comments Robbins.
- **Flook** (available through the iTunes store; search on "Flook location") Application: Location-based social networking. Cost: Free. Like Foursquare <http://foursquare.com/> and Layar <http://layar.com/> Flook is a social networking app that uses the GPS capabilities of mobile devices to deliver information with a location-based context. Robbins explains that students can use any of these social

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networking tools to gain new insights from updated, location-based information. She offers a practical example: "A biology class learning to identify basic plant structures could use Flook or Layar to photograph and tag specimens that then get placed on a map and shared with [the students'] network." Robbins points out that these tools also work well for team activities such as scavenger hunts.

- **Sidewiki** <http://www.google.com/sidewiki/intl/en/index.html> Application: Website wiki plug-in. Cost: Free. With Google's Sidewiki, users can easily place a wiki "on the side" of any public website via a plug-in. "Sidewiki is one of Google's lesser-used tools but it's powerful," says Robbins, noting that because all Sidewiki users must have a Google account, it essentially overlays a social network across the entire internet. "Used along with Google Buzz's friend capabilities, Sidewiki allows teachers to bunch students together into a network and then place their conversations right next to the resource they're discussing, such as online articles, artwork, or videos," she explains.
- **UStream Mobile** <http://ustream.tv/mobile> Application: Streaming video for smartphones. Cost: Free. Ustream allows users to record and stream live video from any smartphone with video capabilities. Making streaming video less complicated—removing requirements for complex server setups—is a major advantage of Ustream, which also incorporates a chat function. Robbins notes, "The streamer can see live comments from the audience and even record the video to share online. Students can Ustream their team discussions, simulations, and speeches, or create their own live interview shows."
- **Thwapr** <http://thwapr.com/> Application: Mobile video sharing. Cost: Free. Thwapr is a mobile-to-mobile or desktop-to-mobile video-sharing tool that also provides the option of making social networking posts. Students can use any mobile device, such as a smartphone or camera-equipped laptop, to shoot quick videos and send them to a network. "This can be very useful for quick video discussion prompts or impromptu group reports via video," says Robbins. "Because the videos can be delivered to both mobile and tethered devices, students and faculty can leverage immediacy and flexibility in how the videos are created and shared."
- **Jing** (<http://jingproject.com/>) Application: Screen grab and video tool. Cost: Free; pro version available for \$14.95 per year. Jing is a tool from TechSmith for taking screen grabs and making videos to share. "It's easy for students to download and install for filming on-screen demonstrations (with or without voice-overs) as well as for instructors to include screen shots in instructional materials or to provide audio feedback as they view student work," comments Robbins. "Jing even includes online storage for videos and pics taken with the tool," she adds.

Mark's Picks Mark Frydenberg, a frequent adviser to CT on web 2.0 tools, offers a few of his favorites from his teaching experience as senior lecturer of computer information systems at Bentley University (MA). Here are the tools he recommends:

- **Delicious, Diigo, and Twine** <http://delicious.com/> <http://diigo.com/> Application: Social bookmarking. Cost: Free. Delicious is one of the earliest social bookmarking tools on the web. It allows users to bookmark sites online, and the list of saved sites is then available on any computer in any browser, rather than just in the browser running on the PC on which the user initially created the bookmarks. Each bookmark can be tagged with keywords for organization and search purposes. Frydenberg points out the feature that makes the tool so famous: "Delicious shows you the tags and number of people who also bookmarked a particular article, so you can get a sense of its popularity." Diigo provides social bookmarking and annotation services. It allows users to add "sticky notes" to articles bookmarked online and also see the comments and notes from other readers.
- **ScreenToaster** <http://www.screentoaster.com/> Application: Screencasting. Cost: Free. ScreenToaster is a screen recorder designed to capture screen activity in real time to create and share tutorials, demos, training, lectures, and more. "Both students and teachers can create tutorials or video tours of websites or other applications, and then easily upload them to YouTube or ScreenToaster's server," explains Frydenberg.
- **Doodle** <http://doodle.com/> Application: Scheduling. Cost: Free; ad-free premium version available for \$28 per year. Doodle's purpose is to make it easy to organize group meetings. Users select possible dates and times, and then e-mail the "doodle" to meeting attendees, who can check off the times that they are available. "Organizing meetings for group projects has never been simpler," enthuses Frydenberg.
- **Google Presentations** <http://www.google.com/google-d-s/presentations/> Application: Online

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presentations. Cost: Free. Google Presentations is part of the Google Docs suite of office applications, and has functionality similar to PowerPoint. "Because the presentations are stored online, it is easy to share and collaborate with other users," comments Frydenberg. "In addition, for anyone who teaches more than one section of a course, embedding a presentation on a course website is much more efficient than posting a file to multiple sites." When a presentation is altered, the page on which it is embedded will automatically load the most recent version stored in the cloud.

- **CoveritLive** <http://www.coveritlive.com/> Application: Live blogging. Cost: Free; various paid premium and subscription versions available. Live blogging during a classroom lecture or presentation allows students to share notes and reactions during class, and gives students the opportunity to create a transcript of the class discussion. The leader can also "push" one-question surveys and videos to all participants. CoveritLive is meant to make a live back channel easy to manage. Frydenberg notes, "The live blog is easily embedded on a course blog or website."
- **WolframAlpha** <http://www.wolframalpha.com/> Application: Computational knowledge engine. Cost: Free. Using a variety of publicly available data and complex knowledge and computational engines, WolframAlpha's goal is to "make it possible to compute whatever can be computed about anything." Frydenberg offers examples of some of its usefulness in education: "WolframAlpha can tell you the distance from Tokyo to Boston and how long it takes to get there by plane, sound, and fiber optic cable; it can retrieve historical gas and stock prices; and from it you can find out how to integrate, evaluate, and graph mathematical formulas."
- **Dimdim** <http://www.dimdim.com/> Application: Online meetings. Cost: Free for small meetings; pro version available for \$25 per month. Dimdim is a platform to host online meetings. Within Dimdim, participants can share a desktop, document, web browser, or whiteboard. In addition, Dimdim provides a dial-in number for participants to listen in or talk on the phone in a conference call setting while the presentation is taking place. Frydenberg reflects on the tool's value in higher education: "It's a perfect environment for webinars, and for holding class on snow days despite the fact that the college is closed."
- **Twitterfall** <http://twitterfall.com/> Application: Tracking and matching tweets. Cost: Free. With Twitterfall, an instructor can create a hashtag for his or her class and have students tweet during class. Like Twitter's search function (search.twitter.com), Twitterfall searches for matching tweets, but it displays them in customizable colors and sizes, so participants can see what others are thinking when the list of tweets is displayed on a large screen in the classroom.

From Tech&Learning <http://www.techlearning.com/>

- **Resources from The Wonder of Wordles (by Jennifer Wagner)** <http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/29590>
This post can also be read at <http://jenuinetech.com/blog/?p=1404>
 - Rebus (or Wuzzles) <http://www.ciaccess.com/~toveza/rebus/rebusanswers.html>
 - Wordle <http://www.wordle.net>
 - Be sure to read what other people think of Wordle at:
 - <http://web20classroom.blogspot.com/2009/10/why-wordle.html>
 - http://www.research.ibm.com/visual/papers/wordle_final2.pdf
 - <http://www.profhacker.com/2009/10/21/wordles-or-the-gateway-drug-to-textual-analysis/>
 - <http://blog.ecollege.com/WordPress/?p=115>
 - <http://www.techedknow.com/?p=56>
 - <http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/20322>
 - <http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/58905.aspx>
 - Plus, there are many resources available to help you with Wordle ideas as well.
 - Tom Barrett *Ways to Use Wordle* at http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dhn2vcv5_157dpbsg9c5
 - Samantha Lunn blog post <http://languagesresources.wordpress.com/2009/05/07/23-ways-to-use-wordle-in-the-mfl-classroom/>
 - More Than Wordles help at <http://jlwagner.pbworks.com/MoreThanWordles>
 - Other online opportunities besides Wordle:
 - <http://tagul.com/>
 - <http://worditout.com/>
 - <http://www.tagcrowd.com/>

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- <http://wordsift.com/>
- <http://www.tagxedo.com/app.html>
- http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm
- http://www.imagechef.com/ic/word_mosaic/
- <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/vocabgrabber/>
- The author's Daily Wordle site at <http://www.jenuinetech.com/GTW>

eThemes has a new look! Next time you go to the eThemes website, you will see the service has a new look! The original eThemes has been replaced with a new and better interface. All the features and resources are still the same and you can continue to use the old URL or you can use the new one; <http://ethemes.missouri.edu/>. All of your bookmarks for eThemes resources will continue to work and are not affected by the new look. New features include icons with each resource where you can report a broken link or a "bad" website. Also, you will see we have added links on the right hand side of each page, such as This Week in Newsy -- a database of current event lesson plans with videos; Teacher Stories -- interviews with teachers about how they are using technology in their classrooms; and Kid Tools and Strategy Tool -- tools supporting students success and making teachers work easier.

From **Generation YES Blog** <http://www.genyes.com/>

- **The Third Teacher** <http://www.thethirdteacher.com/home/home-third-teacher> is an interesting new book that explores how design can transform teaching and learning, becoming "the third teacher" in the classroom, after adults (parents and teachers) and children (peers and self).

Visit **The Third Teacher blog** <http://www.thethirdteacher.com/category/storytype/-quality-education-all> for an ongoing collaboration between educators, youth, and designers as they discuss the impact of the physical environment on teaching and learning.

UPDATED eTHEMES

Forest and Wild Fires These resources are about forest fires and wildfires. Learn what they are and how people have tried to manage them. Find out what to do to prepare if you live in an area prone to fires. There are videos, audio files, interactives, and more. Includes eThemes resources on fire safety.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002226.shtml>

Funeral Customs Learn about funeral traditions around the world. Find out how ancient Greek, Roman, and Mexican civilizations viewed death. Learn how today many traditions are kept by various cultures and their religions. Includes lesson plans and photographs. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001505.shtml>

Genetics: Genetic Disorders These sites focus on genetic disorders. Learn what they are and how DNA and chromosomes are related to genetic disorders. There is information about facts and theories, symptoms, incidence, cause, treatment, and testing and screening of genetic disorders. Includes audio, movie clips, games, and activities. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Genetics: Basics and Genetics: Genes and DNA.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002174.shtml>

Geography: Continents Develop map skills by learning about the seven continents of the world. Includes interactive quizzes to test basic geography knowledge of the continents. There are links to eThemes Resources on Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, South America, and Oceans. Includes an eThemes resource on continents and oceans for younger students. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000037.shtml>

Geography: Countries Learn all about the different countries of the world. See pictures of a particular country's inhabitants and landscape. Read information on its history, culture, and currency. eThemes Resources on continents and the United States are referenced. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000548.shtml>

Geography: Elevation These sites provide information about elevation and its effects on temperature and climate, and plant growth and animal life. Includes maps and information pages about elevation points in U.S. and the world. There are suggested lesson plans and activities for students. There are links to eThemes Resources on Geography: Landforms and Maps: Latitude and Longitude. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001921.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Geography: Southern Region of the United States These sites focus on the states in the South. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photographs as well as statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Also includes links to eThemes Resources on the Midwest, West, and Northeast.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000575.shtml>

Germany: Politics These websites are about Germany's political system. Learn about the branches of Germany's government, the political parties, and the election process. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on Germany.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001632.shtml>

Literature: "Ralph S. Mouse" by Beverly Cleary These sites focus on the book "Ralph S. Mouse." Includes activities, lesson plans, and an interactive quiz. There are links to eThemes Resources on author Beverly Cleary, mice, book activities, and the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle."

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000643.shtml>

Literature: "Ramona the Brave" by Beverly Cleary These websites are about the book "Ramona the Brave" and author Beverly Cleary. There are lesson plans, reviews, and more. One website has a biography and quiz on the character of Ramona. There is also information about what to expect on the first day of school. Includes links to eThemes resources on "Ramona and Her Father," Beverly Cleary, and back-to-school activities.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001395.shtml>

Literature: "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr These sites include suggested activities for the book "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" and author Eleanor Coerr. There is also information on the statues created in honor of Sadako. View photographs of Hiroshima, Japan, after the atomic bomb attack, follow directions for making paper cranes, and listen to songs about Sadako. Includes animations, lesson plans, and study guides. There are links to eThemes Resources on Japan and Atomic Bomb.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000871.shtml>