

# INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education • Phone: (573) 751-8247 • E-mail: [instrtech@dese.mo.gov](mailto:instrtech@dese.mo.gov)

December 2008: Volume 10, Number 2

[Newline Submission  
Guidelines](#)

## Inside this Issue

### Instructional Technology Update

*From the Director's Desk*

- DESE Budgets / Grant Programs
- Technology Planning and State Approval
- Core Data Census of Technology

### State and National News

- Speak Up 2008 now open through December 19 – Speak Up Missouri!
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day announced
- Call for student writers, grades 7-12, to participate in the The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Contest of 2009

### E-rate Program

- Funding Year 2009
- Funding Year 2008
- Funding Year 2007

### Research, Publications, Resources

- ED releases report based on Spellings'

## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

### DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

*FY09 Grant recipients are reminded that mid-year progress report narratives are due January 31, 2009. Title II.D and eMINTS-METS reports are to be submitted via Moodle upload, and Safe School reports are to be submitted to Instructional Technology via email. For additional details, see the FY09 Reporting Requirements document posted on each program's website.*

### FY09 Education Technology Programs

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>

#### Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

Eight first-year and eight continuation grants were awarded to support school-wide and/or district-wide eMINTS implementation models, designed to meet local educational needs. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

#### State eMINTS/METS School Grants

Five (5) grants were awarded to support school-wide eMINTS implementation models to improve teaching and learning, with focusing on mathematics and/or science instruction. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

### FY09 State Safe Schools Program

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/index.html>.

Nine first-year and 31 continuation (five second-year, 26 third-year, and one fourth-year) grants were awarded to support district and/or consortium alternative school programs designed to meet the educational needs of targeted students: those exhibiting violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

### Technology Planning and State Approval

*About half of Missouri's school districts and charter schools, by April 2009, must submit new long-range technology plans for state approval. While ed-tech plans have been submitted to the Department for approval since 1997 – with the scoring criteria much the same since 2003 – this will be the first year that plans will be submitted using DESE's new ePeGS planning tool. Planners are encouraged to review related documents such as the FAQ and the October workshop presentation slides and recording for additional details. Instructional Technology is also accepting applications from Missouri educators interested in participating in the 2009 review of*

technology roundtables

- SETDA releases final 2020 Action Plan and final Reports
- P21 debuts '21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and English Map'
- Writing definitive Internet acceptable use policies
- NSBA annual ed-tech survey results
- Disaster recovery planning resources courtesy of CoSN
- eSN Article about alternative search tools
- Survey says: K-8 teachers want web resources to help differentiate instruction
- 2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity Baseline Study
- Sloan report on online learning in U.S. higher education, 2008
- New MacArthur study shows online time good for kids

#### eMINTS Update

- Go Green-Transform Learning: 2009 eMINTS Winter Conference Online registration opens in December

#### MOREnet Update

- MOREnet will host Connections 2009, the annual spring technical conference
- Missouri Bridge Project – Videoconference
- EBSCOhost Updates
- Learning Express – FREE ACT/SAT online practice tests

*district technology plans.*

### Technology Plan State Approval –

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

#### Technology Plan State Approval –

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

Over 280 districts and charter LEAs received letters in August explaining they will need to have new technology plans approved by the Department in spring 2009 – and that the plans should be submitted via the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS). A copy of the reminder letter, planning resources, an FAQ regarding the 2009 ed-tech plan approval process – as well as presentation slides and a video recording of the October 2008 MITC pre-conference workshop – are posted on the District Technology Planning website.

Submitted plans will be reviewed by Missouri educators, in five locations around the state, on May 7, 2009. Anyone interested in serving as a technology plan reader should complete and submit the [Technology Plan Review Volunteer Application](#) (posted on the District Technology Planning website).

**Core Data Census of Technology** – *the 2008 Census of Technology state summary report has been posted online at:*

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>.

### STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

*Missouri schools, teachers, administrators, and students are strongly encouraged to participate in Speak Up 2008. In its sixth year, Speak Up is a national survey where participants join in national, state, and local dialog about key educational topics, such as technology, science education, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Education, business, and policy leaders use the survey data regularly to inform federal, state, and local education programs.*

### Speak Up 2008 now open through December 19 – Speak Up Missouri!

Since fall of 2003, the annual Speak Up project has collected and reported on the views of over 1.2 million K-12 students, teachers, administrators, and parents, representing over 14,000 schools in all 50 states. Data present the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder input on education, technology, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, schools of the future, and science instruction. This year's topics include:

- Technology usage in and out of the classroom
- Science Education and career exploration
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills: information and media literacy
- Emerging Trends: digital content, broadband access and policy, online learning
- Designing the 21<sup>st</sup> century school

**Missouri's goal is to achieve at least one percent (1%) of total student enrollment** and, with your help, we can accomplish this goal. **Participating schools and districts will receive free, online access to their results in Feb 2009.** To learn more, see: <http://www.netdayspeakup.org/speakup2008/>. View the complete list of survey questions at: [http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/speakup\\_surveys.html](http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/speakup_surveys.html).

- Missouri Distance Learning Association
- E-rate Filing Windows

#### **e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update**

- Mark Your Calendar: Registration for the winter/spring semester opens January 9, 2009
- New courses available for the Winter/Spring semester

#### **Cooperating School Districts Update**

- ACT Prep
- Maximize the Midwest Education Technology Conference 2009 Experience

#### **Roundtrips Update**

- Inside the Artist's Studio: Fantastic Fibers
- Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds

#### **Regular Featured Items**

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Contests, Awards, and Fundraisers
- Mark Your Calendar
- From the Mailbag
- Newest eTHEMES
- Updated eTHEMES

[Index by Topics](#)  
[Archives](#)

#### **STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS, cont'd.**

##### **8th Annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day announced**

SuccessLink is pleased to announce that the 8th Annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Rotunda of the State Capitol Building. This is an exciting event in which educators and their students from across the state are invited to showcase the technology being used in their classrooms. The students look forward to this event, as they have an opportunity to actively participate in the exhibit, as well as meet their legislators and observe the state legislature at work. Legislators are personally invited to visit the exhibit and observe how technology is used to educate our students.

Please join in supporting this event, and make an impact on how technology can enhance student achievement in Missouri schools. For more information, or to register your school as an exhibitor, please visit <http://www.successlink.org>.

##### **Call for student writers, grades 7-12, to participate in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Contest of 2009**

Missouri's winning entries will be published in a new, online creative writing journal which will serve as the 2009 issue of Missouri Youth Write. Information about the project is at [www.artandwriting.org](http://www.artandwriting.org).

Categories include: dramatic script, humor, journalism, poetry, science fiction/fantasy, short story, short short story, and general writing portfolios. The contest website at [www.missouriwestern.edu/scholastic](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/scholastic) has submission and scoring information, but students MUST also register online at [www.artandwriting.org](http://www.artandwriting.org) where they will print out their contest entry and consent forms.

What will Missouri teachers receive if their students enter?

- A copy of Scholastic's Best Teen Writing of 2008.
- Eligibility to win one of three \$20 Border's Bookstore gift certificates OR one of five classroom sets (25 copies) of Best Teen Writing of 2008.
- Hiring preference to be a Scholastic Missouri Region and National Scholastic Adjudication contest scorer (pays \$80 per day): Saturday, January 10, and Saturday, January 17, at Missouri Western at Missouri Western, 9 AM – 4 PM in Blum 222-223. Sign-up online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/plwp/scoring>

What will winning students and their teachers receive?

- Recognition at this year's Write to Learn Conference on Friday, February 29. A selection of winning writings will be displayed at the conference, along with a roster of all student winners, their teachers, and their schools. Students will receive
  - Gold Key, Silver Key, or Honorable Mention awards and certificates.
  - Recognition from Write-to-Learn Keynote Chris Crutcher and an autographed copy of a Crutcher novel or another featured speakers book. (It is not necessary to be at the Write to Learn celebration ceremony to be a Missouri winner.)
- Web-based publication of winning entries—which will have listings by students' names, by teachers' names, and by students schools.

**STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS, cont'd.**

- Missouri's Gold Key winners work will also be judged for national awards and scholarships, with national winners honored during Scholastic's National Celebration events in New York in June 2009. At least one Missouri Region Gold Key winner and his/her teacher will be invited to this event.

Questions? Email Erin Walker, Scholastic Contest Submission Coordinator ([emh6225@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:emh6225@missouriwestern.edu)) or email [scholastic@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:scholastic@missouriwestern.edu), Call the PLWP office at (816) 271-4315 (leave a message if no answers)

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Dr. Jane Frick, English Professor and Prairie Lands Writing Project Director, Missouri Western State University- Eder Hall 201C, St. Joseph, MO 64507, FAX: 816 271-4166; TEL: 816 271-4315

**E-RATE PROGRAM**

*Schools and libraries can begin applying for 2009-10 E-rate discounts on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The application window will remain open through Thursday, February 12, 2009.*

**Funding Year 2009.** The SLD announced that the Funding Year 2009 E-rate Form 471 filing window will be open December 2, 2008, through February 12, 2009. This year the application period is 73 days, compared to last year's 93 days. The filing window opening was delayed, waiting for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue its annual list of eligible products and services. While the FCC considered making several proposed changes (as detailed in the 2008 Notice of Proposed Rule Making), the list remains the same as last year's list. Taking into account the 28-day waiting period, the last possible date to post a Form 470 is January 15, 2009. Both the Form 470 and 471 can and should be filed online at: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp>.

**Funding Year 2008.** USAC released FY2008 **Wave 30** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) November 19. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 90% and denials at 79% and below. To date, FY2008 commitments total \$1.6 billion.

**Funding Year 2007.** USAC released FY2007 **Wave 71** FCDLs December 5. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 81% and above. To date, FY2007 commitments total nearly \$2.5 billion.

On the day the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**

*Note the following reports and/or resources regarding Secretary Spellings' technology roundtables, teacher professional development, virtual learning, acceptable use policies, disaster recovery planning, Cybersafety, the latest online search tools, and more.*

**ED releases report based on Spellings' technology roundtables**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) released in November a report as a culmination of the roundtables held by Secretary Spellings. Entitled *Harnessing Innovation to Support Student Success: Using Technology to Personalize Education*, this ten-page paper addresses five key areas of interest, as listed below. See: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/technology/reports/roundtable.html>.

1. Online Learning and Virtual Schools
2. Transforming Data into Knowledge and Action
3. Broadband Connectivity
4. Research Efficacy and Impact
5. School Leadership and Professional Preparation

## RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, cont'd.

### SETDA releases final 2020 Action Plan and final Reports

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recently released new reports as part of its Class of 2020: Action Plan for Education: "[\*Every Student Deserves a High-Quality 21st Century Education\*](#)." The Call for Action report cites several statistics that press home the need for swift action. With input from more than 100 national policy makers and all 50 state ed-tech offices, SETDA's action plan presents 10 recommendations for national, state, and local education leaders to boost learning with technology.

The 2020 project [<http://www.setda.org/web/guest/2020>] involves development of a series of white papers. Each topic includes an in-person roundtable discussion with expert stakeholders; the documents include research, examples, and key recommendations for national, state, district, and school leaders and policy-makers. Following are links to the reports released in November.

- [\*\*Empowering Teachers: A Professional and Collaborative Approach\*\*](#)  
Research shows that professional development changes practice when it is consistent, relevant, and sustainable. This paper examines approaches such as technology coaches, curriculum cadres, and collaborative school reform teams that have proven to effectively change teacher behavior and increasing student achievement.
- [\*\*Learning Virtually: Expanding Opportunities\*\*](#)  
The paper highlights the opportunities offered through virtual learning to provide each student the promise of access to age- and ability appropriate curriculum, rich and extensive resources and accurate and up-to-date assessments regardless of location, economic situation or time. When effectively used, virtual learning allows for student centered, self-directed, self-paced learning that greatly enhances the curriculum offerings schools provide.

### P21 debuts '21st Century Skills and English Map'

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) joined up with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) to produce the "21st Century Skills and English Map" a framework for integrating 21st century skills into the K-12 English curriculum. P21 skills include: *Learning and Innovation Skills*, such as creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration; *Information, Media, and Technology Literacy*, including information literacy, media literacy, and information and communications technology literacy; and *Life and Career Skills*, such as flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility. **The English map provides educators, administrators and policymakers with concrete examples of how 21st Century Skills can be integrated into English in grades 4, 8, 12.** See: <http://www.1105newsletters.com/t.do?id=1904899:136273>

### Writing definitive Internet acceptable use policies

In November, *Converge Magazine* published articles related to creating and enforcing Internet policies for schools. With ready access to educational technology, increased expectations for students (particularly middle and high school students) to conduct research using the Internet, and threats inherent in Internet access, schools are faced with a new layer of security requirements. According to the article, "Acceptable Use Policies Protect Schools and Students", the first step is to establish a strong and comprehensive Internet policy that addresses seven key elements. The guide "E-Policy Essentials for School" can help schools write definitive AUPs for the Internet, email, and IM. To download the free ePolicy Guide (complete with templates), visit: [http://www.stbernard.com/forms/policyhandbook/iPrism\\_edu.asp?oc=848](http://www.stbernard.com/forms/policyhandbook/iPrism_edu.asp?oc=848). To read the *Converge* AUP article, see: <http://www.convergemag.com/story.php?catid=421&storyid=108016>.

### NSBA annual ed-tech survey results

More than 500 school and district leaders responded to the National School Boards Association (NSBA), with results released at NSBA's Technology + Learning Conference in late October. According to survey results, finding ways to assess 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills should be at the forefront of the educational technology agenda for the next president and Congress. School leaders believe technology engages students, increases their educational opportunities, and can help students develop stronger math, science, communication and critical thinking skills. Their

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, cont'd.**

biggest challenge is securing funding for technology, followed by integrating technology into the classroom. The struggling economy is also affecting district technology programs, with two-thirds of districts delaying hardware purchases or upgrades this year. To read the eSchool News article, see: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=55881>

**Disaster recovery planning resources courtesy of CoSN**

Disaster recovery planning is an ongoing process that requires detailed planning and preparation prior to an event, and then setting the groundwork for understanding the process of responding and recovery. The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) provides free public access to resources designed to help school leaders involved in crisis preparedness to ensure student safety and business continuity – key definitions and understanding the planning process, a Technology Disaster Recovery Checklist, links to other web reference materials, and more. See: <http://www.cosn.org/itcrisisprep/index.html>.

**eSN Article about alternative search tools**

While Google and Yahoo remain as the most-used search sites, this article discusses other search tools that have surfaced in recent years, which can help students [particularly college students] with more in-depth research of video and audio files. Included in the discussion are sites such as Blinkx, ChaCha, Internet Archive, Kartoo, Grokker, Touchgraph, and SearchTogether. Read the full eSchool News article at: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56196>

**Survey says: K-8 teachers want web resources to help differentiate instruction**

A survey conducted in October found that K-8 principals and teachers want web resources to help with differentiated instruction in order to reach all students, based on their different reading levels, prior knowledge, interests, and learning styles. In addition,

- 80% say they need multimedia Web resources to both stimulate and motivate students
- more than 60% believe their districts should be spending more of their instructional materials budgets on Web-based resources and other digital resources
- more than 75% of teachers are using the Internet for instructional purposes on a regular basis
- more than 80% have concerns about students finding resources with content that is neither age nor grade appropriate
- approximately two-thirds are concerned about students getting useless or irrelevant results when using search engines like Google® or Yahoo™

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Schools and Generation ‘Net” survey was commissioned by Thinkronize, conducted by Interactive Educational Systems Design, and collected responses from 497 principals and 796 teachers. To read the report, see: [http://ntdi.nettrekker.com/?page=survey\\_2008](http://ntdi.nettrekker.com/?page=survey_2008).

**2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity Baseline Study**

Less than 25 percent of educators feel comfortable teaching students how to protect themselves from online cyber predators, cyber bullies, and identify theft, according to a recent study by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and Educational Technology, Policy Research and Outreach (ETPRO). The 2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity (C3) Baseline Study was conducted to explore current educational awareness policies, initiatives, curriculum, and practices in K-12 educational settings in the United States. Administered online, the survey was completed by 1,569 public and private K-12 educators and 94 technology coordinators; 219 educators also participated in focus groups for the study. According to the research analysts, findings indicate the need for updated policies to ensure teachers, students, and parents understand the basics of cyber safety and teachers are provided the training necessary to inform students on these topics. For full results of the study, see: <http://www.staysafeonline.org/>.

**Sloan report on online learning in U.S. higher education, 2008**

“Staying the Course: Online Education in the United States, 2008” is the sixth annual report aimed at answering some of the fundamental questions about the nature and extent of online education in higher education. Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and based on responses from more than 2,500 U.S. colleges and universities, the study addressed five key questions. Findings indicate: enrollments continue to grow at rates far in excess of the total higher

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, cont'd.**

education student population; institutions believe economic changes will have a positive impact on enrollments, increasing the demand for online courses; chief academic officers and online teaching faculty agree that flexibility in meeting the needs of students is the most important motivation for teaching online; most institutions believe online education is critical to their long-term strategy (a small decline after five years of steady increases); and, the numbers of institutions with online program offerings continues to grow with roughly equal penetration for seven of eight major discipline areas (with engineering the exception). To download report, see:

[http://www.sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/pdf/staying\\_the\\_course.pdf](http://www.sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/pdf/staying_the_course.pdf).

**New MacArthur study shows online time good for kids**

Results from the most extensive U.S. study on teens and their use of digital media show that America's youth are developing important social and technical skills online - often in ways adults do not understand or value.

"It might surprise parents to learn that it is not a waste of time for their teens to hang out online," said Mizuko Ito, University of California, Irvine researcher and the report's lead author. "There are myths about kids spending time online - that it is dangerous or making them lazy. But we found that spending time online is essential for young people to pick up the social and technical skills they need to be competent citizens in the digital age."

Released at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting, the study was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$50-million digital media and learning initiative, which is exploring how digital media are changing how young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life.

Together with the late Peter Lyman of the University of California, Berkeley, and Michael Carter of the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education, Ito led a team of 28 researchers and collaborators at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Berkeley. Over three years, they interviewed over 800 young people and their parents, both one-on-one and in focus groups; spent over 5,000 hours observing teens on sites such as MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, and other networked communities; and conducted diary studies to document how, and to what end, young people engage with digital media. SOURCE The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation <http://digitalllearning.macfound.org> From TechLearning <http://www.techlearning.com/index.php>

**eMINTS UPDATE**

*submitted by Monica Beglau*

**Go Green-Transform Learning: 2009 eMINTS Winter Conference Online registration opens in December**

eMINTS program participants and graduates from Missouri and ALL other locations are invited to attend the 2009 eMINTS Winter Conference. All educators interested in eMINTS topics are welcome to attend. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 1 - 4 p.m. in Columbia, MO, at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel. Winter Conference sessions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 and Friday, Feb. 6 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the same location. Find complete information from the Events section of eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2009/>

**Last Call – Register for Veteran eMINTS teacher programs Hurry!**

Registration for this year's program ends December 1, 2008.

- Access to Tech4Learning online support (Recipes and Snacks)
- Access to current eMINTS PD modules and resources
- Webinars to get started with new tools, hosted by eMINTS staff
- Enrollment in eMINTS Moodle course for veteran eMINTS and eMINTS4All teachers, facilitated by eMINTS staff

**Choose a plan**

- \$25/year per person – online access to current eMINTS PD modules and Tech4Learning resources + introductory webinars facilitated by eMINTS staff
- \$125/year for individual – online access to current eMINTS PD modules and Tech4Learning resources, introductory webinars AND online Moodle course for veteran eMINTS teachers

**eMINTS Update, cont'd.**

- \$100 per person/year – for 3 or more participants registering together from the same district - online access to current eMINTS PD modules and Tech4Learning resources, introductory webinars AND online Moodle course for veteran eMINTS teachers

Find all the details at <http://www.emints.org/programs/veteran/register.shtml>

**MOREnet UPDATE**

submitted by Eric Nicklas

**MOREnet will host Connections 2009, the annual spring technical conference**

This year's spring technical conference will be held March 19-20, 2009 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, MO. Registration will open January 2, 2009. Go to <http://www.more.net/conferences/connections/> for additional information.

This year's conference brings together sessions and solutions designed to help attendees take the leadership role to "Go Green" in the world of information technology. Join us for discussions on green computing, good energy policies and practices, resource conservation, waste reduction, recycling, reusing, proper disposal procedures and more.

*Connections 2009* will continue the tradition of bringing industry experts, colleagues and other professionals together to share ideas and collaborate on proven solutions to your information technology challenges.

Don't miss the Exhibitor Fair for your opportunity to talk with various industry representatives and see their products first hand, including a number of *Go Green* ideas and solutions.

The social and networking opportunities during the conference provide additional opportunities for attendees to meet with fellow professionals to share ideas, build additional professional relationships and learn from their experiences.

Keynote Speaker is Bill St. Arnaud, Chief Research Officer for CANARIE Inc., Canada's Advanced Internet Development Organization His presentation will be "Saving the Planet at the Speed of Light: How R&E networks can help reduce global warming."

**Missouri Bridge Project – Videoconference**

As part of a new collaboration with MOREnet and Missouri Department of Transportation, RoundTrips invites you to join us live on Monday, December 8 from Rolla, and Macon, Missouri for "*Bringing down the Glasgow Bridge.*" Be part of the action as explosives expert Dr. Paul Worsey (Professor of Mining Engineering, Missouri S&T) and engineers Dennis Brucks and Brian Haeffner from the Missouri Department of Transportation walk through the process of bringing down the Glasgow Bridge over the Missouri River.

This program is the first of an ongoing series of programs that will occur throughout the 2008-2009 school year. During this series of programs entitled *Project MO-Bridge: Connecting Students to Their Future* your students will be able to learn what it takes to build a new bridge from dream to design to construction to operation. Students will interact with experts in a wide variety of fields and learn how specific aspects of their science, social studies, and mathematics curriculum come to life in the construction of a new bridge over the Missouri River at the town of Glasgow, Missouri.

But before that new bridge can be built, the old bridge needed to be removed to make way for construction of a new span connecting route 240 across the Missouri River.

Have your students interact with the engineers Dennis Brucks and Brian Haeffner who will give us technical aspects of the destruction and rebuilding of the bridge. Ask your questions about what it takes to safely destroy one bridge so

**MOREnet UPDATE, cont'd.**

you can begin to build another. See video excerpts of the bridge coming down, and explosives demonstrations by Dr. Paul Worsley.

More details about the program including program format, preparatory materials and related curriculum standards can be found at the CILC web exhibit for the program at <http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2307>. The program is 45 minutes in length and will be offered twice on December 8, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time and 11:00 a.m. Central Time. Cost for the program is FREE.

Additional details about the entire series of programs can be obtained by contacting us at RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org/>. The rest of the series of programs will occur during the second semester of this school year. If you believe this program would be of interest to others, please forward the information to them.

**EBSCOhost Updates**

EBSCO Publishing has release the following updates:

- Custom linking services to HighWire Press free access journals. HighWire Press, a division of Stanford University Libraries, carries scientific, peer-reviewed journals from various publishers. Custom linking will link users to HighWire services when full-text is not available from the subscribed EBSCOhost databases. For more information about the free titles available from HighWire Press, see <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>.
- Enhancements to EBSCOhost and EBSCOadmin. Please see [http://support.epnet.com/support\\_news/detail.php?id=497&t=r&page=1](http://support.epnet.com/support_news/detail.php?id=497&t=r&page=1) for additional information on interface changes, including screen shots and links to EBSCO knowledgebase articles.

Visit the improved EBSCO Customer Success Center at <http://www.ebscohost.com/customerSuccess/>. Free resources include promotional materials, screen savers, product logos and instructional tools. The new Search Box Builder, available at <http://supportforms.epnet.com/eit/searchboxbuilder/>, generates code for embedded search fields for your institution's web page.

**Learning Express – FREE ACT/SAT online practice tests**

As students prepare for the ACT and SAT tests, MOREnet wants to remind you that the Learning Express Library, an online resource made available from funding from the Missouri State Library and the Secretary of State's Office, provides access to ACT and SAT practice tests free of charge. Go to <http://www.more.net/online/index.html> to access the Learning Express Library and other online resources.

**Missouri Distance Learning Association**

Mark your calendars! The Missouri Distance Learning Association (MoDLA) will be hosting its annual summer conference and member meeting on July 9-10, 2009 at Tar-Tar-A in Osage Beach MO. Visit <http://www.modla.org/> for more information.

**E-rate Filing Windows**

The E-rate Form 471 filing window will open at 12 pm EST on December 2nd and close at 11:59 pm EST on February 12th.

**e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS: MISSOURI UPDATE**

*submitted by Christine Terry*

**Mark Your Calendar: Registration for the winter/spring semester opens January 9, 2009.**

- Winter/spring courses run February 25, 2009
- Summer 2009 courses will run from June 3 – July 22, 2009
- Cost:
  - Courses cost 125.00/participant
  - Graduate credit is available at the cost of \$100.00/credit hour

**e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS: MISSOURI UPDATE, cont'd.**

- Scholarship applications are available that reduce the course cost by half
- Visit <http://www.elearningmo.org> for more information or registration

**New courses available for the Winter/Spring semester:**

**Effective Instruction for K-12 Virtual School Students** - This course is based on the NACOL standards for high-quality online instruction. The teacher/facilitator plays a critical role in assisting students to achieve academic goals and expectations. This 7-week online course allows the virtual-school teacher to have valuable, hands-on experience as a learner in the online environment as well as develop skills specific for facilitating an online course.

**The Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: An Introduction for Administrators** - This course provides practicing administrators and administrators-in-training, an overview of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program (MCGP) and the benefits it provides to schools including its contribution to the mission of the school and school improvement, including student success. The primary course developers are:

- Norman C. Gysbers, Ph.D., a Curators' Professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Educational, School and Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri,
- George R. Sesser, Psy.D., a Professor of Counselor Education in the Department of Educational Leadership and Human Development at the University of Central Missouri,
- Bragg Stanley Ed.D., the Director of Guidance and Placement in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Other courses scheduled for the winter/spring semester are:**

- Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension
- Differentiating Instruction: Empowering All Learners
- Using Models to Understand Fractions
- Proportional Reasoning
- Using Digital Portfolios to Foster Student Learning
- And more...

**COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE**

*submitted by Rebecca Morrison*

**ACT Prep**

Cooperating School Districts partners with The Princeton Review to bring inexpensive, quality ACT prep to students through distance learning. For just \$140, a student gets three practice tests, 20 hours of interactive instruction and access to online resources from The Princeton Review. The registration deadline for the February test prep videoconference course is Friday, December 12, 2008.

Registrations must be logged at the end of the day on 12/12 for the \$140 price. The cost for the course increases after December 12 to \$190. Late registration ends Friday, December 19, 2008. To register or for questions, e-mail Rebecca Morrison at Cooperating School Districts: [rmorrison@csd.org](mailto:rmorrison@csd.org).

Classes are held at sites that sign up to participate; contact your school to find out if it will be a class location. All participating sites must have H.323 videoconference equipment & connections. CSD must have at least 50 students from all participating sites for the course to run. The instructor teaches live from Cooperating School Districts in St. Louis, Missouri. After the October test prep course, several students significantly raised their practice test scores- one student raised her overall practice test score by 8 points!

The first day of class is Tuesday, January 6 (3:30-5:30 CST) and it runs until Thursday, February 5, 2009. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays and the practice tests are on Saturday mornings.

**Maximize the Midwest Education Technology Conference 2009 Experience**

Send a team from your school or district to stretch and maximize the METC experience. Determine the specific workshops and sessions that team members will attend, regroup during and after the conference to share new ideas

**COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE, cont'd.**

and then plan how to share your reviews of the conference content with other faculty members and administrators.

**METC Group Discounts!** When sending five (5) or more people (from the same district), use one of two available discount packages. 5 Plus saves 10% on registration fees for a group of five (5) or more educators. 5 and 1 Free saves one registration fee for an administrator or board member when you send five (5) teachers (from the same district). For either discount, all registrations must be received at the same time. **Super Early Bird registration ends November 30! Register today:** <http://www2.csd.org/csdrpc/metc2009/registration.html>

**ROUNDTRIPS UPDATE**

*submitted by Tim Gore*

**Inside the Artist's Studio: Fantastic Fibers**

As part of its continuing collaboration with HEC-TV Live!, RoundTrips is proud to announce their newest visual arts program "Inside the Artist's Studio: Fantastic Fibers." Below find time and date information as well as a short program description. More details, including national and state standards, program format, and related learning materials can be found at the program's CILC web exhibit at <http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2293>. Cost for the program is FREE. To enroll in the program contact RoundTrips directly at <http://www.roundtrips.org> or 314-773-6934.

**Date:** December 4, 2008

**Times:** 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CDT or 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. CDT

**Grade Levels:** 4-12

**Cost:** NO CHARGE

Join fibers artist Cathy McBride as she creates pieces of textile arts and fabric design inspired by her world travels, cultural influences, and artistic vision. Cathy will share images and experiences that inspired her work, show textile arts and fiber crafts she recently created, and demonstrate the process she uses to execute her pieces. Students will be able to interact as the demonstration proceeds, ask their questions about how the dying process works and how the design is created, and see the final piece created. Students will also have the opportunity to share examples of fiber and textile pieces they have created and share the experience of their artistic process with Cathy. We'll explore the big questions: Where do ideas for art come from? How is inspiration transformed into a piece of art? How are fibers used to create works of art? What techniques are available for the fibers and textile artist? Ask your additional questions as you watch Cathy at work. Cost for the program is FREE.

**"Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds"**

As part of its continuing collaboration with HEC-TV Live!, RoundTrips announces a new Language Arts series "**Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds.**" These videoconference programs are part of this year's St. Louis Big Read <http://bigread.wustl.edu> celebration of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Project partners include Washington University in St. Louis, and Metro Theater Company <http://www.metrotheatercompany.org/>, and Edison Theatre at Washington University <http://edisontheatre.wustl.edu/>.

Each program is available via videoconference or live online streaming at <http://www.hectv.org>. Those in the St. Louis region can watch live on HEC-TV Charter Communications cable channel 26. Online and TV viewers will be able to e-mail questions during each program. Archived versions of each program will also be available on <http://www.hectv.org> and via DVD.

More details, including national and state standards, program format, and related learning materials are available at the CILC web exhibit <http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2290> for each program. Enroll students for one program, two programs, or all three. Enrollment in any one program includes a DVD copy of all three programs. Cost for each program is FREE.

**Program 1: Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds, Part 1: Setting and Character**

**Date:** December 11, 2008

**Times:** 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Central Time or 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Central Time

**Grade Levels:** 7-10

**Cost:** NO CHARGE

**ROUNDTRIPS UPDATE, cont'd.**

What was it like to grow up in Monroeville, Alabama with Harper Lee? How did the town influence the setting and characters for her famous novel? Bring the setting and characters of Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" to life as you learn from individuals who grew up with the author and still live in Monroeville today and also interact with the director and actors involved in a new theatrical production of the novel. Take a virtual tour of Ms. Lee's hometown of Monroeville, Alabama. Learn of the town's history and culture. Find out about her family and the individuals of the town whose experiences are reflected in the novel.

**Program 2: Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds, Part 2: Themes of Social Justice**

**Date:** December 16, 2008

**Time:** 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Central Time

**Grade Levels:** 7-10

**Cost:** NO CHARGE

Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" seems just as relevant to a discussion of social justice today as it did when first published in 1960. Issues of race, gender, discrimination, tolerance, acceptance, poverty and community permeate the fabric of the novel and the fabric of students' everyday lives. If they had a chance to discuss these themes, what would your students want to say? What themes and issues raised in the novel resonate most with them? How are those themes and issues illustrated? How do they see those themes and issues being played out in their lives today? Have your students explore the themes of social justice in Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" as they interact in a student-to-student discussion facilitated by educators who have taught the novel and the director of a new production of the play.

**Program 3: Of Monroeville and Mockingbirds, Part 3: From Page to Stage**

**Date:** January 13, 2008

**Time:** 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Central Time

**Grade Levels:** 7-10

**Cost:** NO CHARGE

How do you translate the timeless themes, locations and characters of Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" to a theatrical production? Find out by joining us live from the stage of the Edison Theatre on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. View a scene from the production. Meet director Carol North and members of the design team to discuss how the show came to life from the first phase of design to the final phase of implementation. View the lights, the costumes, and the scenery. Ask your questions of actors about how they formulated and performed their character. How would you choose to illustrate the themes of the story through a stage design and directorial point of view? Compare your ideas to those of the Metro Theater Company and Edison Theatre staff staging this new production.

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES****2009**

January 26 – 28

**Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC) 2009**

St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO

<http://www2.csd.org/metc2009.htm>

February 4 – 6

**Go Green-Transform Learning: 2009 eMINTS Winter Conference Online registration opens in December**

eMINTS program participants and graduates from Missouri and ALL other locations are invited to attend the 2009 eMINTS Winter Conference. All educators interested in eMINTS topics are welcome to attend. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 1 - 4 p.m. in Columbia, MO, at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel. Winter Conference sessions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 and Friday, Feb. 6 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the same location. Find complete information from the Events section of eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2009/>

## GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Grant Program</b>
Ongoing	<b>UPS Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html">http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html</a>
Ongoing	<b>Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School</b> <a href="http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&amp;p=AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html">http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&amp;p=AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html</a>
Ongoing	<b>Adopt a Classroom Grants</b> <a href="http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/">http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/</a>
Ongoing	<b>The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Education Grants Program</b> <a href="http://www.hewlett.org/">http://www.hewlett.org/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Educational Foundation of America Grants</b> <a href="http://www.efaw.org/">http://www.efaw.org/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants</b> <a href="http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm">http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants</b> <a href="http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp">http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp</a>
Ongoing	<b>Motorola Foundation</b> <a href="http://www.motorola.com/giving">http://www.motorola.com/giving</a>
Ongoing	<b>Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant</b> <a href="http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/">http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/</a>
Ongoing	<b>The Starbucks Foundation Arts &amp; Literacy Grants</b> <a href="http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp">http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp</a>
Ongoing	<b>NEA Learning &amp; Leadership Grants</b> <a href="http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf">http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf</a>
Ongoing	<b>RGK Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/guidelines">http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/guidelines</a>
Ongoing	<b>Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm">http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm</a>
Ongoing	<b>NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants</b> <a href="http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm">http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths</b> <a href="http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html">http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html</a>
Ongoing	<b>ING Foundation Educational Grants</b> <a href="http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm">http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm">http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants</b> <a href="http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm">http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm</a>

**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.**

Ongoing	<b>Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/">http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Motorola Community Grants</b> <a href="http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736">http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736</a>
<b>2008</b> February 4	<b>Music Matters Grants</b> <a href="http://heart.muzak.com/what/grants.aspx">http://heart.muzak.com/what/grants.aspx</a>

The following are just a few of the many sites that provide information on grant opportunities for K-12 education programs. Please check each listing for specific information on the type of program and the rules and guidelines for participation.

**Grant listings**

- For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning** <http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.
- **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/foundation/grant.php>.
- **Public Education Network** posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at [http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast\\_grants.asp](http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp).
- **Grant writing and funding resources** are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.
- **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/\(xzvsqo2g4qgxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qgxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)
- 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>.
- This 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>
- 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://www.fdncenter.org>
- 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>
- **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>
- **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>
- **Electronic Learning**, a pull-out section of, but also distributed separately from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information. <http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>

**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.**

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

**Foundations**

- **Corning Foundation** [http://www.corning.com/inside\\_corning/foundation.asp](http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/foundation.asp)
- **International Technology Education Association (ITEA)** <http://www.iteaconnect.org>
- **NEC Foundation of America** <http://www.necfoundation.org>
- **Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program**  
[http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm\\_invest/ogp/index.html](http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html)
- **Toyota USA Foundation**  
[http://www.toyota.com/about/our\\_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota\\_usa/](http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/)
- **Mazda** <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

**Federal Grants**

- **National Science Foundation (NSF)** <http://www.nsf.gov>
- **U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities** <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

**CONTESTS, AWARDS, AND FUNDRAISERS****2008**

December 10      **Call for student writers, grades 7-12, to participate in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Contest of 2009**  
Missouri's winning entries will be published in a new, online creative writing journal which will serve as the 2009 issue of Missouri Youth Write. Information about the project is at [www.artandwriting.org](http://www.artandwriting.org).

December 31      **EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser**  
<http://www.ecophones.com/ProgramRules.aspx>

**2009**

January 16      **The Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award** rewards excellence in the development and delivery of technology programs. Programs which focus on aerospace and/or aeronautics will be given priority to other programs. Applicants must demonstrate how their programs ultimately benefit the students in a school or district.  
[http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

January 30      **The Coming Up Taller Awards** recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, provide them learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities. These awards focus national attention on exemplary programs currently fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's children and youth through education and practical experience in the arts and the humanities. Accompanied by a cash award, the Coming Up Taller Awards not only reward these projects with recognition, but also contribute significant support to their continued work.

The nomination form is linked from <http://www.pcah.gov/news/09CUTNomination.htm> and more information is available at <http://cominguptaller.org>.

February 17      The yearly **Intel Schools of Distinction Awards** recognize U.S. schools that implement innovative, replicable programs that inspire their students and lead to positive educational outcomes in the areas of math and science.

**CONTESTS, AWARDS, AND FUNDRAISERS, cont'd.**

Eighteen finalists will be selected in April - three from each grade range (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) in each of the two categories of math and science. Six winners, selected out of the eighteen finalists, will receive \$10,000 from the Intel Foundation and more than \$100,000 in products and services from the program award sponsors. One of the final six winners will be identified as the Star Innovator for 2009. This school will receive an additional \$15,000 cash grant from the Intel Foundation as well as additional services and products from the award sponsors.

To apply or learn more about the application process, please visit <http://www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/index.htm>

February 27

**The 2008-2009 Inspired Visual Learning Awards** sponsored by Inspiration Software <http://www.inspiration.com/> will recognize 15 educators and their students for creatively using visual learning in their classrooms.

To apply, educators must submit student-created examples using Inspiration Software's visual learning software tools (Inspiration, Kidspiration, and InspireData). Three Gold Star and 12 Silver Star award winners will be selected and announced on March 31, 2009. All 15 winners will receive a new Intel-powered Classmate PC donated by Intel Corporation. The three Gold Star winners will receive \$2,500 to support professional development and/or classroom technology purchases, a 10-pack volume license for one of Inspiration Software's visual learning software tools and supporting lesson plan books, and a six-month subscription to the Atomic Learning training resource. The 12 Silver Star winners will receive \$1,000 for professional development and/or classroom technology and a five-pack volume license for an Inspiration Software product with supporting lesson plan books. Applications can be submitted online at <http://cf.inspiration.com/vlawards/> until Feb. 27, 2009.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****2008**

December 20

**EVENT****Articles for Newline due**email to [Claranne.vogel@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Claranne.vogel@dese.mo.gov)**2009**

February 3

**8th Annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day**

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

State Capitol Building Third Floor Rotunda, Jefferson City

For more information, or to register your school as an exhibitor, visit

<http://www.successlink.org>.

April 15

**Technology Plans due for re-approval due at DESE**

Visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/districtstatus.htm> for local plan expiration dates. Visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/> for planning resources.

**FROM THE MAILBAG**

**LIFE Photo Archives** Google is now hosting around 10 million photos from the LIFE photo archives on Google Image search. One can search the photos—which range from the 1750s to present day—directly from the LIFE photo archive start page, or you can simply include 'source:life' with any Google Image search query.

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

**From YouthLearn**, a project of the nonprofit Education Development Center, Inc. <http://main.edc.org/>, designed to provide resources and tools for developing effective learning programs enhanced with technology, particularly in out-of-school settings to youth development professionals, teachers, educators, and other caring adults. <http://www.youthlearn.org>

- **National Geographic Xpeditions Activities** Created by National Geographic, this diverse collection of activities illuminates various aspects of geography, science, and social studies through hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences. It is one of the resources highlighted in the Technology Curriculum Database launched earlier this year, which was developed by YouthLearn for the U.S. Department of Education-funded National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning at SEDL. Every Xpeditions activity is standards-based and enriched by additional resources, including maps, stories, games and other interactive features, as well as links to more information. The dozens of activities in the collection span a wide range of topics, from dinosaurs and the ancient world to multimedia storytelling and community development to nature exploration in one's own backyard. Given such variety, and the user-friendly presentation, these curriculum resources are very well suited to afterschool settings. <http://www.sedl.org/cgi-bin/mysql/afterschool/technology.cgi?resource=7>
- **Speaking of Hope: An Invitation to Youth Media Makers** "A wonderful piece by Youth Radio called "Hope Out of the Box" recently aired on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." It made the point that young people – like Obama, who made hope the engine of his campaign – now bear on their shoulders the heavy weight of turning their hopes into reality.... Inspired by this commentary, WKCD is inviting young people to create their own short audio pieces about the hope – and the questions – that the election has stirred. WKCD will post those pieces on the website in an online collection called "Speaking of Hope," as received. Pieces must meet guidelines for length (3-4 minutes) and content (forthright and interesting). What does hope mean to you? Who fills you with hope? When and how can hope hurt? The answers that young people record can take many forms: a student's commentary, a rap, a short dialogue, even a song." <http://wkcd.org>

**Digital School Collection Teacher Resources** Technology integration is a mechanism for augmenting student learning while teaching students essential digital communication skills that will help them become lifelong learners in the digital age. The projects and assessment methods provided here are from the Teacher Resource DVD that currently ships with the Adobe Digital School Collection and the Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 7 and Adobe Premiere® Elements 7 bundle, and are available at <http://www.adobe.com/education/instruction/adsc/?sdid=DZHRW>

- **A Person in Time Online** Students conduct research on a historical figure and then design a web page based on how this person would want to be represented on the Internet. During this project, students learn about primary and secondary resources, cite research, and make a case for their web page decisions.
- **Animal Kingdom Digital Encyclopedia** Students create web pages to communicate information demonstrating their understanding of an academic concept. They begin by gathering information and images about animals. Then they use Contribute to add text, links, and images to a page in the class website.
- **Visual Representation of the Atom** Students demonstrate their understanding of abstract concepts through the creation of a visual representation of the concept. In this lesson, students create visual representations of the atom to illustrate their understanding of the atom and its elements.
- **Civic Documentaries** Students choose an issue that impacts them personally, the school, or their community to document in a short movie. Students interview individuals on both sides of the issue, integrate video clips, create the documentary, and write a reflection detailing the learning process.
- **Impressionist Artwork** Students explore the impact of photography on impressionism by taking photographs around the school to turn into impressionist works of art. Students illustrate their understanding of impressionist-era work through the different imaging techniques they choose to use.
- **Pioneers of Music** Students choose a piece of music that they find interesting or transcendent; analyze the piece for its theoretical music form; research the historical and social context of the music and artist; collect supporting historical artifacts; evaluate the piece of music; narrate and record their commentary on top of the musical piece; and package and present a portfolio of their project.
- **Assessment tips** Check out the Assessment Methods document for more detailed ideas and techniques in the areas of:
  - Feedback, comments, and critiques for assessment,
  - Digital documentation for assessment, and

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- E-Portfolios for assessment.

**iPods in Education** Apple's resource site around using iPods in education

<http://www.apple.com/education/products/ipod/learninglab.html> has resources to manage iPods, as well as lesson plans <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/collection.php?collectionID=714> and a *Getting Started* guide for using iPods and iTunes for teaching and learning [http://images.apple.com/education/products/ipod/pdf/iPod\\_Getting\\_Started\\_Guide.pdf](http://images.apple.com/education/products/ipod/pdf/iPod_Getting_Started_Guide.pdf).

**The Fairfax Network**, [http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/about\\_us/index.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/about_us/index.htm) is pleased to announce these two **FREE** additions to their previously announced lineup. The Fairfax Network, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming that originates in Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia, 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.

- **PRIMARILY GEORGE** January 8, 2009 4-4:45 p.m. (ET) For Educators  
The program will feature educators from Mount Vernon, the National Archives, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the Papers of George Washington. These educators will highlight online primary source documents, in their respective collections, that can be used to teach students about various aspects of George Washington and the founding era. Panelists will discuss the challenges and best practices involved in teaching with primary source documents. They will also give brief overviews of the online collections that can be used to access the sources. Produced in partnership with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. <http://www.mountvernon.org/index.cfm>
- **CAREER DAY** January 22, March 11, and April 21, 2009 1-1:30 p.m. (ET) For Students in Grades 5-8  
Career Day is designed to support efforts to increase student interest and performance in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through virtual field trips into various days in the lives of our experts. Career Day guests give on-the-job examples of equipment or methodology used in their careers and talk about the STEM fields of study involved. The first program focuses on alternative energy and green design. Students tour a working solar home with an energy efficiency engineer, go through an energy audit with an energy services consultant, and get a special peek at the research and development being conducted at the University of Maryland's Energy Research Center.

For registration or more information, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/registration/registration.html>

**C-SPAN Announces White House Week** Featuring "The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home" A C-SPAN Original Production <http://whitehouse.c-span.org/>

C-SPAN's White House Week, a 7-day television event, kicks off on December 14 with the premiere of a feature documentary, *The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home*. White House Week goes beyond the velvet ropes to the private residence, sharing exclusive interviews with the First Family, the White House staff and renowned presidential historians.

*The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home*, which headlines the weeklong original series, recounts highlights of America's most famous home – from George Washington's first design decisions to an exclusive tour of the private residence given by First Lady Laura Bush.

For the first time, television viewers will see the private rooms of our First Families, such as the Solarium, where President Ronald Reagan recovered from the 1981 assassination attempt, as well as the newly-refurbished Lincoln Bedroom. Viewers will learn that as America grew in power and presence, Theodore Roosevelt similarly grew the White House by building the original West Wing.

They will also learn how Harry Truman added his namesake balcony, and how Jackie Kennedy began a First Ladies' tradition of restoring rooms with historical furniture and art.

After the premiere, six additional nights of special White House programming will air on C-SPAN. Programs will

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

feature rare footage, behind-the-scenes video, and extended interviews with historians, White House staff and other experts – all providing an unprecedented look into the public spaces of the White House and the private home of our nation's First Families.

Produced with assistance from First Lady Laura Bush and the White House Historical Association, this weeklong series is a comprehensive look at the White House, bringing this treasured landmark alive for viewers across the country.

*The White House: America's Most Famous Home* premieres December 14 at 9 p.m. ET on C-SPAN. Additional original programming will air nightly at 9 p.m. ET through December 20. The public can get inside the White House ahead of time and bookmark <http://whitehouse.c-span.org/> today. The site features interviews with historians, footage from the documentary and content from the C-SPAN archives.

**A Guide to the Presidential Transition From The Resource Shelf** - A daily newsletter with resources of interest to information professionals, educators and journalists. <http://www.resourceshelf.com/>

**Resource of the Week: Change Is Good - A Guide to the Presidential Transition** By Shirl Kennedy, Senior Editor Check out these sites that guide, direct, report on and document the transition that occurs when a new president takes office. Includes sites specific to the new president, as well as historical information.

- **Change.gov.** [http://change.gov./](http://change.gov/), from the Obama organization and still under construction, currently includes:
  - A countdown, in days, till the January 20, 2009 inauguration.
  - "The Newsroom" - a blog of press releases from the new administration Biographies of Barack Obama, the President-Elect, and Joe Biden, the Vice President-Elect.
  - Link to Obama's election victory speech in Grant Park, in Chicago.
  - A variety of links at the bottom of the page under the headings *Newsroom, Learn, American Moment, America Serves, and About This Site.*
  - A link to apply for a job in the new administration.
  - A link to share your story and send a message about issues that matter most to you.
  - A link to the GSA Transition Directory:
    - The Presidential Transition Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-293) authorizes the General Services Administration (GSA) to develop a transition directory in consultation with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Act provides that the transition directory "shall be a compilation of Federal publications and materials with supplementary materials developed by the Administrator that provides information on the officers, organization, and statutory and administrative authorities, functions, duties, responsibilities, and mission of each department and agency." Senate Report 106-348 clarifies that the directory is intended to "assist in navigating the many responsibilities that fall on a new administration" that is "confronted by an overwhelming amount of material." Obviously, there's not much information here yet, but if you click around, you will find some interesting governmental odds and ends:
      - *A Survivor's Guide for Presidential Nominees*, from The Brookings Institution. <http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2000/1115governance.aspx>
      - Links to relevant sections of the *U.S. Government Manual* (2008-09 Edition). <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/browse-gm-08.html>
      - A link to the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2009* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2009/>
      - A link to *An Overview of the Executive Branch Ethics Program*, from the United States Office of Government Ethics <http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/PTT-AppointeeInfo-Ethics.cfm>
      - A link to a PDF document: *Preparing Presidential Appointees for Leadership: A History* [http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/documents/Preparing\\_Presidential\\_Appointees\\_for\\_Leadership-A\\_History\\_092208\\_v4.pdf](http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/documents/Preparing_Presidential_Appointees_for_Leadership-A_History_092208_v4.pdf)
      - What will the Federal government pay to relocate a new Appointee and his/her

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

family? Visit <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr;rgn=div5;view=text;node=41%3A4.2.3.8.3;idno=41;sid=25ad6a5971662d27f565e695e77b2a4e;cc=ecfr>

- Information about *Freedom of Information* <http://directory.presidentialtransition.gov/PTT-AppointeeInfo-FreedomofInfo.cfm>
- The White House Transition Project (WHTP) <http://whitehousetransitionproject.org/> is an interesting resource. Since 1997, the White House Transition Project has combined the efforts of scholars, universities, and policy institutions to smooth out the American presidential transition. WHTP bridges the gaps between the partisan forces engaged in settling elections and the decision processes essential to governing by providing non-partisan information about the challenges of the American presidential transition and the strategies for overcoming those challenges. It provides these and other resources to presidential campaigns, to the president-elect, and to the new administration. These resources include three separate report series providing a White House institutional memory, perspectives on past transitions, and advanced research covering special aspects of transitions and governing. The WHTP also provides unique analysis of the appointments process and a clearinghouse on other transition resources. Lots of historical stuff here, including photo archives. A couple items of note:
  - *Presidential Power in National Security: A Guide to the President-Elect* <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/usconlaw/pdf/presidential-power-national-security.pdf> from the Law Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/law/>
  - *White House Transition Project Expert Registry* <http://whitehousetransitionproject.org/resources/briefing/WHTP%20Expert%20Registry.pdf> Other transition resources, governmental and otherwise.
  - *Hearing — “Passing the Baton: Preparing for the Presidential Transition”* <http://governmentmanagement.oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=2170> On Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee held a hearing titled, “Passing the Baton: Preparing for the Presidential Transition.” This hearing continued the Subcommittee’s oversight of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming presidential transition. With only 77 days between the November election and the January inauguration, the transition teams of the executive branch and the incoming administration will have much work to do to ensure that the incoming Administration can begin its work immediately. The hearing reviewed the steps that GSA is taking to fulfill its responsibility to assist members of the incoming and outgoing administrations. The hearing also reviewed expert research on federal executive management challenges surrounding the transition. Site includes testimonies and other documents in PDF.
- *General Services Administration: Presidential Transition* <http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/home.do?tabId=15> The transfer of power from one administration to the next marks a significant moment in U.S. history. The Presidential Transition Acts of 1963 and 2000 give the General Services Administration (GSA) a prominent role in this process. They authorize the Administrator of GSA to provide the President-elect and the Vice-President-elect the services and facilities needed to assume their official duties.
- *Government Accountability Office: 2009 Congressional and Presidential Transition* [http://www.gao.gov/transition\\_2009/](http://www.gao.gov/transition_2009/) Following each presidential election, GAO serves as a resource to assist with the transition to a new Congress and administration. On this website, using its institutional knowledge and broad-based, nonpartisan work on matters across the government spectrum, GAO provides insight into, and recommendations for addressing, the nation’s major issues, risks and challenges. Also located throughout the site are key reports for further research, as well as contact information for and video messages from GAO experts.
- *Council for Excellence in Government: Presidential Transition* <http://www.excelgov.org/Other/transition.cfm?ItemNumber=10414&&navItemNumber=9426> Offers links to various news articles and reports. One hot item that will show up here soon — The Prune Book Online:

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- *PrunesOnline* is a must-have tool for prospective Presidential appointees, the Presidential Personnel Office looking for the best and brightest, members of Congress, journalists, advocacy groups, and regular citizens who want to know more about the people working for them. It's your guide to the presidential appointment process and the people involved. *PrunesOnline*, follows from the infamous "*Plum Book*"
- "*Plum Book*" — *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions* <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plumbook/>. Published by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Reform alternately after each Presidential election, the Plum Book lists over 7,000 Federal civil service leadership and support positions in the legislative and executive branches of the Federal Government that may be subject to noncompetitive appointment, nationwide. Data covers positions such as agency heads and their immediate subordinates, policy executives and advisors, and aides who report to these officials. The duties of many such positions may involve advocacy of Administration policies and programs and the incumbents usually have a close and confidential working relationship with the agency or other key officials.
- *IBM Center for the Business of Government: The Presidential Transition* <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/transition2008/> The next President will face a wide range of challenges - economic, political, and social. He will need to be able to lead an effective government that can address these challenges. The IBM Center for The Business of Government is committed to helping identify and bring best practices from research to practice to help address these issues. There's a blog here, addressing "management challenges for the next president," as well as various guides, reports, and issue briefs.
- *1105 Government Information Group: Government Transition 2009 Wiki* <http://govtransition2009.wik.is/> This public service Wiki site seeks to be a repository of those ideas and recommendations from knowledgeable organizations and experts—and provide a forum for elaboration and discussion. In particular, this site will focus on transition ideas pertaining to Program Execution, Performance Management, Procurement and Acquisition, the use of Information Technology, and the management of Human Capital in government.
- *Congresspedia: Presidential transition resources* [http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Presidential\\_transition\\_resources](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Presidential_transition_resources) A fine collection of relevant laws, [Congressional Research Service reports](#), discussions/hearings, media coverage, supporting documents and other materials. ("Congresspedia is part of SourceWatch, a similarly collaborative, wiki-based website documenting the people, organizations and issues shaping the public agenda.")
- The Free Government Information blog *The Transition: Information, Technology, and Information-Technology*. <http://freegovinfo.info/>, a collection of special interest resources "relevant to government information and technology policies during this transition period" <http://freegovinfo.info/node/2113>

**Welcome to the White House site for children** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/> Introduce children to Washington with an array of fun facts, activities, games and much, much more! Here is information about the history of the White House, the traditions, even the pets that have lived there. Check out the News, Photos, Math Challenge, and Quizzes that are made just for students. This site also features information such as the construction on Pennsylvania Ave, or about the NCAA winter champs visit to the White House.

**Flocabulary** <http://www.flocabulary.com/> uses the educational power of hip-hop music to foster literacy and promote academic success in the classroom and beyond. Through a range of multimedia products and live performance programs, they bring their concept of music and learning to students and teachers worldwide.

**From ONLINE: Exploring Technology & Resources for Information Professionals**

<http://www.infotoday.com/online/> ONLINE is written for information professionals and provides articles, product reviews, case studies, evaluation, and informed opinion about selecting, using, and managing electronic information

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

products, plus industry and professional information about online database systems, CD-ROM, and the Internet.

**Blowing in the Wind Weather Resources** The following list is excerpted from *Blowing in the Wind*. By Steve Hardin, published in *Online*, 01465422, Nov/Dec2008, Vol. 32, Issue 6. Steve Hardin ([shardin1@isugw.indst.edu](mailto:shardin1@isugw.indst.edu)) is assistant head of reference, Cunningham Memorial Library, Indiana State University. He's also completing a master's in geography with an emphasis on climate and serves as a spotter for Illiana SKYWARN, one of a number of spotter's organizations which feeds storm reports to the National Weather Service.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service (NWS) <http://www.weather.gov/> the gateway to a large amount of weather and climate information. No commercials or pop-ups, this site is free. Links to scores of sites of interest to meteorologists, climatologists, aviators, hydrologists, and just about anyone else interested in the atmosphere. The opening page features an interactive map for specific weather information about a particular locality. Other links provide information on radar, satellite imagery, air quality, forecast models, upper air charts, and other information sources. Links to RSS feeds to stay on top of the latest developments.
- Weather Channel's site <http://www.weather.com/> "Weather Encyclopedia" which contains valuable definitions and explanations of weather phenomena, forecasts for interstate driving and for various allergens. Contains ads.
- Unisys Weather <http://weather.unisys.com> a commercial site that packages its material in an easy-to-use format. Homepage features a clickable map to obtain the local forecast. There are links to many other features such as skew-T charts and weather definitions.
- Weather Underground <http://www.wunderground.com/> includes links to local forecasts and to NEXRAD. Free radar links Tabs near the top of the page lead to various related topics such as "Trip Planner," and "History" that provides average and record temperatures for a given location. The "Climate Change" tab leads to discussions about that topic. The "Weather Cams" tab presents a Google-based map to easily see what's happening on the ground in a particular location. Other links make it easy to find forecasts for international locations.
- The basic service for AccuWeather <http://www.accuweather.com/> is ad-supported, but the subscription based premium version (\$7.95 per month or \$79.95 per year omits them). The homepage features links to local forecast, including "Lifestyle" forecasts for pollen, ultraviolet radiation, and arthritis discomfort. The site includes links to weather-related headlines and blogs, and video weather presentations (viewable after the obligatory commercial). AccuWeather's graphics are good-in fact, one may see them from time to time on the local TV weather forecast. The "Download Center" includes useful widgets, browser extensions, and other items to customize a desktop or browser with weather information.
- Intellicast.com <http://www.intellicast.com/> bills itself as "The Authority in Expert Weather." It provides the sort of ready links to forecasts and related weather information expected on commercial sites. Links from the homepage go to information geared to the local, national, or global weather situations, along with emphasis on storms, travel and health-related activities. Includes an "Air Stagnation" map under "Health" may be useful, along with the "Mood Index" which purports to show whether today's weather will positively or negatively affect one's mood. Intellicast's radar includes a link to a WSI product showing storm cells' speed, direction, and echo tops (an indication of a storm cell's strength). Other links to local television weathercasts.
- WSI.com <http://www.wsi.com/> is more of a "wholesaler" than a "retailer" of weather information. That is, WSI sells products to enable customers, ranging from broadcast outlets to airlines to websites, to incorporate weather information into their own products.
- Another weather wholesaler is FORECA <http://www.foreca.com/> based in Helsinki, Finland. FORESCA also has links for international weather.

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- MSN Weather <http://weather.msn.com> provides quick links to local forecast and to maps and weather news. The homepage also includes a world map to obtain forecasts for other parts of the world.
- A different approach to weather information is demonstrated by Weather Bonk <http://www.weatherbonk.com/> which describes itself as "a mashup that lets you view real time weather information on a map." Weather Bonk gets its information "from a combination of personal weather stations that are run from homes and schools as well as national weather services." Many schools and private citizens run automated weather observing stations whose data are available on the web. While their instruments may not be up to National Weather Service standards, the sheer number of these stations provides a finer observation grid than is possible by relying solely on NWS stations. As the site's guide points out, this collection of weather information can be especially useful for those interested in "microclimates," the climatic information for a very small area. Click on a map or enter a location directly to obtain a forecast, webcams, and a Google-powered map that permits overlays of temperatures, radar, and cloud temperatures. Blogs are available for comments too.
- The NOAA Central Library <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/> networks a wide variety of information on "weather and atmospheric sciences, oceanography, ocean engineering, nautical charting, marine ecology, marine resources, ecosystems, coastal studies, aeronomy, geodesy, cartography, mathematics and statistics." While many of the databases are available only to NOAA personnel, there's still a lot of material readily available to the general public.
- WeatherBug <http://weather.weatherbug.com> Systems people may object to the amount of bandwidth it consumes. One can obtain information about the weather directly from the website, but many prefer to download the desktop tool which provides a continuously updated temperature and ready weather links. One option sets up alerts for severe weather. The site offers other products as well, choose from free versions or pay a subscription fee for an "ad free" version.
- Aviation is an industry that pays great attention to weather. Both scheduled airlines and private pilots are grounded in (and sometimes by) weather reports. The Aviation Weather Center (AWC) <http://aviationweather.noaa.gov> and Aviation Digital Data Services (ADDS) <http://adds.aviationweather.noaa.gov> are closely related sites run by the National Weather Service in cooperation with several other agencies.
- NOAA's National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/> is a well-organized, information-packed site. The homepage features a handy overview map showing active watches, radar, and the most recent "Convective Outlook," a guide to where SPC thinks the greatest chances for severe weather will be. Tabs above the overview map, as well as links along the left side, bring the user more detailed information about the severe weather situation.
- NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/> "studies severe and hazardous weather processes and develops tools to help National Weather Service forecasters, and federal, university and private sector partners use weather information more effectively." If looking for research that's shaping our understanding of severe weather, NSSL is a great place to start.
- WeatherTAP <http://www.weathertap.com/> WeatherTAP's site provides information on forecasts, lightning, satellite observations, severe weather, and aviation weather. Most spotters use it primarily for its RadarLabHD product, which allows overlays of radar and terrain data with information on individual storm cells. The alarm feature alerts when watches, warnings, or other weather conditions occur within a specified area, or zoom in to a specific area on the radar display. Other options customize the data for mobile phones or PDAs.
- The SKYWARN National Homepage <http://www.skywarn.net/> isn't really a weather site, but it may be useful to understand some of the activities of the weather spotters who feed their information to the National Weather Service. Thanks to the curvature of the earth, the National Weather Service's radar

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

beams may pass a few thousand feet above the ground for locations many miles from the radar site. Storm spotters can provide valuable information the radar misses. The site contains links to educational materials as well as various products from multiple sources dealing with severe weather-especially its prediction. Please note the list of local SKYWARN operations is not comprehensive; you may have better luck finding the organization in your area by searching for skywarn and your state or city name.

- Billing itself as "The World's Eyes & Ears for Severe Weather," SevereStudios.com <http://www.severestudios.com/> features video streaming from storm chasers. Follow the link to the "Live ChaseCam Network" to see the video. Note that hours of video may be streamed before you see a tornado, wall cloud, or other severe weather phenomenon. Links to "Past Chases" and "Video Archive" will help zero in on a specific type of weather.
- The National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> is the place to go for detailed information on current hurricanes. Includes links to satellite photos, radar imagery, forecast advisories, public statements, maps of forecast positions and intensities, aircraft reconnaissance, and more. RSS feeds help stay abreast of the latest developments. The site also includes links to general information about hurricanes, as well as historical reports from past hurricane seasons. Coverage includes the Atlantic and eastern Pacific.
- The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html> is the "world's largest archive of climate data." This site is geared toward the serious researcher; many of the data sets carry a price tag. For research on climate change, or extreme weather conditions, or paleoclimate, or any of thousands of other climate-related topics, NCDC is a great place to start. There are various regional climate centers too, run by various agencies in cooperation with NCDC. For example, the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu> focuses on that region and includes links to the other regional climate centers as well as state climate offices.
- The Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.shtml> is a great source for, among other things, information on precipitation.
- The flip side of the rainfall coin, of course, is drought, and there's a lot of drought information available at the National Integrated Drought Information System site <http://www.drought.gov/>. The links to the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook and the Drought Monitor are especially useful.
- The NWS's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/> delivers "climate monitoring, assessment, and prediction products for timescales from weeks to years." Geared more toward the serious researcher than the casual consumer, this site offers, among other things, extended predictions of the climate outlook. Of special note is the excellent analysis of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation cycle as well as many other teleconnection indices that affect climate. The CPC site also features a climate glossary if the terminology is confusing.
- The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) <http://www.cocorahs.org/> is a great source for detailed precipitation information. CoCoRaHS is an organization of volunteers (sponsored in large part by NOAA) who report on weather conditions in thousands of locations in most of the 50 states. It's especially useful in breaking down precipitation amounts beyond those recorded by the comparatively few NWS stations. CoCoRaHS is always looking for more volunteers.
- The Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP) <http://www.wxqa.com/> takes a different approach to volunteer weather reporting, using weather stations tied into a position reporting system to provide information often more current than the daily or hourly reports more common elsewhere. Many CWOP participants are amateur radio operators, and most of this site's pages and links have a decidedly technical bent. Follow the "Map/Data Displays" link to current observations and graphs showing recent history for a given site. As with CoCoRaHS, CWOP represents an opportunity for volunteers to make real contributions to the overall weather knowledgebase.

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) <http://www.ucar.edu/>, a nonprofit consortium of research universities based in Boulder, Colo., "promotes partnership in a collaborative community dedicated to understanding the atmosphere-the air around us-and the interconnected processes that make up the Earth system, from the ocean floor to the Sun's core." It manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the UCAR Office of Programs (UOP) on behalf of the National Science Foundation and UCAR's member universities.
- The NCAR <http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/> site is a gold mine of information on atmospheric research. Another good site for those seeking to improve their understanding of the atmosphere is MetEd, or Meteorology Education & Training <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/> run by UCAR's Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET). Find education resources for professionals, students, and anyone wanting to learn about meteorology-related topics. Registration is required (it's free) to take the modules and courses.
- Many colleges and universities have weather pages; including Twister, the Ohio State University's weather site <http://twister.sbs.ohio-state.edu/index.php>. It features a Columbus, Ohio, forecast compiled by the atmospheric science and geography students at OSU. Upper-air, forecast model and radar data are readily available too, along with links to other information of interest to forecasters.
- The National Geographic Society Climate page <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/earth/earths-atmosphere/climate-article.html> is a fine place to start if looking for climate information at a basic level. The page points out the difference between climate and weather, and National Geographic has provided a weather page too Both pages offer links to related articles and to RSS feeds.
- The NOAA Education Resources page ([www.education.noaa.gov](http://www.education.noaa.gov)) is just that-a page with links for students and teachers. Of course, "students" can range from kindergarteners to doctoral candidates, so NOAA has divided its student sources into "Specially for Kids" (grades K-5), "Specially for Students" (grades 6-12), and "Higher Education Opportunities" (undergraduate and graduate students). Teachers run the same gamut, and a trip through the various resources on the teacher pages will reveal items for a variety of educational levels. Of special note is the link for the "Resource Listing for Weather and Climate Instruction" from NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/resources/>
- The American Meteorological Society also has a webpage devoted to students <http://www.ametsoc.org/amsstudentinfo/index.html> The information is presented within the context of student memberships to the AMS; there are links to resources such as distance learning programs and career information.
- The NWS Glossary <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/glossary.php> features quick explanations of the terms and abbreviations used in many National Weather Service forecasts and discussions.

**GreenPrint** <http://www.printgreener.com/> is a nifty quick download that maximizes your printer's output to save on paper and ink. There's a version for Windows (free) and a version for Macs (which costs \$29 and has a 30 day free trial). Either version of the software highlights and removes unwanted pages, creates PDFs with one click (OK, that's worth it right there), helps you decide what to print and not to print, and keeps a tally of paper, trees, and money saved.

**Monarch Butterfly Migration Project** Every year, millions of monarchs migrate thousands of miles from Canada and the United States to overwinter in the mountain peaks of Mexico. This journey is dependent on habitat conservation throughout North America. Now teachers can take students on a FREE live, interactive field trip that follows the migration of monarchs. Upcoming trips are planned, and curricular materials are available online. Learn more by visiting: <http://monarch.pwnet.org/>.

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

**Fun Math Contest Site from Columbus State University** As national experts continue to decry the need for more science and math education, a fun math contest website at Columbus State University is doing its part to keep interest alive. Hundreds of thousands of people from more than 213 different countries around the globe are finding their way to the brain-teaser site every month at: <http://www.colstate.edu/mathcontest/>. More than 564,000 hits were logged last year, and the counter is on track this year to double that mark. The site also has reached the coveted No. 1 spot on Google when someone searches online for "math contest." CSU's math contest site features the Problem of the Week, plus Algebra in Action, Middle School Madness and Elementary Brain Teaser.

**From Worldstart** <http://www.worldstart.com/>

**Virtual Fish Tank** <http://www.virtualfishtank.com/fishtank/fishtank.html> Like Fish, but don't want the upkeep? Well now you can get your fish fix by using the virtual fish tank. You'll need to have Macromedia's Shockwave to use this site. If you don't have shockwave this site will direct you to it. If you're really curious how this whole site works check out their Technical Stuff Section.

**From TechLearning** <http://www.techlearning.com/index.php>

**Write it up** Writing teachers can turn their favorite teaching tricks into gold in a contest aimed at gathering best practices for teaching writing in the classroom. The contest, sponsored by The Writing Teacher <http://www.thewritingteacher.org/>, We Are Teachers <http://www.weareteachers.com/web/corporate>, and LearningExpress eFolio™ <http://www.thewritingteacher.org/about-efolio/> rewards the best ideas submitted by teachers as judged by their peers. Now through December 18, 2008, teachers who submit tips at <http://contest.thewritingteacher.org> and garner at least ten votes will win a copy of any book in the LearningExpress English Language Arts series. The top eight finalists will win a full classroom set of any single title in the series and two winners who receive the most votes will each win a Flip Video camera.

The We Are Teachers online community is ideal for hosting the Writing Teacher Tip Contest, with tens of thousands of teachers looking to share teaching tools, and thousands more teachers accessing the I Am Teacher Facebook application. The Writing Teacher Tip Contest can be seen at <http://contest.thewritingteacher.org>.

No Debate about entering this one **Now Debate This** is kicking off its second year with a new question: "How can America achieve energy independence through the lessons of history?" Students from across the country are encouraged to apply to this program and become a part of the great debate. Last year, *Now Debate This* toured the United States asking students to debate who was the better president, Washington or Lincoln? Sixteen finalists toured sites in Illinois, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. The field was narrowed to two students who debated for Washington and Lincoln at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, with the winner walking away with \$150,000 for college expenses. To learn more about the competition, please visit <http://www.nowdebatethis.com/v2/splash.html>.

**You Are Here: The FTC Goes Shopping** <http://www.ftc.gov/youarehere/> This free site uses interactive games and activities to teach kids aged 8-12 key consumer concepts, as well as the role of the FTC in American commerce. Teachers can use the site in classroom activities related to consumer economics, government, social studies, history, language arts, and other related topics.

**Puzzlemaker** Discovery Education <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com> Puzzles are great curriculum support. Puzzlemaker is a puzzle-generation tool for teachers, students, and parents. More than 10 types of math and vocabulary puzzles can be created and printed, including word search, criss-cross, and more.

Puzzles can be created and customized for specific grade levels and curriculum. Users can create puzzles from their own word lists or from curriculum-based word lists available with the program. Puzzlemaker is easy enough to use that, with some help, students can create their own puzzles. A variety of tools allow users to organize, edit, and save puzzles in multiple formats. Puzzlemaker is available online at no cost. A CD-ROM version offers several features not available online, as well as the advantage of avoiding internet slowdowns during peak-use periods. The CD-ROM includes a searchable Merriam-Webster elementary and intermediate dictionary, a teacher's guide, and more than 350 clip art images and 70 sample puzzles. The CDROM edition, for use with Windows (including Vista), is available

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

as a single computer license for \$49.95.

**From MultiMedia & Internet@Schools** Be sure to visit the MultiMedia & Internet@Schools homepage <http://www.mmischools.com/> with CyberBee's biweekly Web Pick. Then fly over to CyberBee <http://www.cyberbee.com/> for more curriculum ideas, research tools, and activities to use with students and staff.

**Mysteries of Ancient Egypt** By: Joseph Linda C. MultiMedia & Internet@Schools 15464636 Nov/Dec2008Vol. 15 Issue 6 The article reviews several websites that focus on Ancient Egypt including the Ancient Egypt Site the Color Me Egypt and Write Like an Egyptian. Cyber Bee

- **Ancient Egypt British Museum** <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html> Visit the British Museum and discover the land of Ancient Egypt. Learn about Egyptian life through stories, exploration, and a series of challenges. Play the Egyptian board game called Senet. Examine the painting in Nebamun's tomb. Find geographic coordinates in ancient Egypt. Determine the size of a pyramid. Topics include mummification, pharaoh, pyramids, temples, time, traders, and writing. Do not miss the Staff Room for teachers to assist in finding the resources to meet the needs of students. This site is extensive, engaging, and interactive.
- **The Ancient Egyptian Culture Exhibit** <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/egypt/> Minnesota State University has created the Ancient Egyptian Culture Exhibit. The 10 main sections are Daily Life, Art, Military, Architecture, Hieroglyphs, Religion, Government, Maps, History, and Archaeology. Each topic includes photographs, images, and maps. The information is presented with attention to detail and relevance. The difference in genders is explored as well as food, houses, growing up, hairstyles, furniture, sanitation, medicine, farming tools, calendar system, and much more. Each is presented in such a way as to be able to compare to present day ideas.
- **The Ancient Egypt Site** <http://www.ancient-egypt.org/> An Egyptologist from Belgium maintains this up-to-date site on the different eras of Egyptian history. It includes tables of rulers from the many dynasties. Locations of monuments are illustrated on maps with the history of the time and place. The different styles of Egyptian writing from hieroglyphs, hieratic, and demotic are illustrated. The author provides a tutorial on learning to read Egyptian writing. Learn what archeologists have found in recent discoveries and how these discoveries continue to help in understanding ancient Egyptian culture.
- **BBC Ancient History: Egyptians** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/> Highlighting the BBC website are two outstanding interactive features that will mesmerize your students. The mystery "Death in Sakkara: An Egyptian Adventure" is an award-winning masterpiece set in 1929 Egypt. Journalist Charles Fox plunges into a darkly sinister world of intrigue, murder, and mysticism in the hunt for a missing archaeologist. Your students determine the direction of the story and gather clues. In the "Mummy Maker," students are invited to assist Kha in preparing the body of Ramose for his funeral. This is a great way for elementary and middle school students to learn about the mummification process.
- **Color Me Egypt** <http://touregypt.net/kids/activities.htm> Tour Egypt through a variety of activities and games. Complete word games, make finger puppets and paper dolls, color, and write hieroglyphics. There are 15 word searches pertaining to Egypt. Read the featured Egyptian story and the nine featured blogs. Photographs of the mosques of Egypt as well as information on Egypt's government, culture, land, people, and cities are all included in this tour of Egypt.
- **Detroit Institute Of Arts: Ancient Egypt Lesson Plans For Teachers** <http://www.dia.org/education/egypt-teachers/index.html> Carve images and hieroglyphs. Construct a 3D paper pyramid. Make a 21" cubit measuring stick. Transform a cardboard box into a mummy case. Create a market place and trade handmade Egyptian objects. These are a few examples of the artistic lessons available for elementary and middle school teachers.
- **Egyptian Calculator** <http://www.isomedia.com/homes/mjohns/calc.htm> Try your hand at using the Egyptian calculator. Enter the numbers and operations and see how the answers are calculated. Compare this system to other systems. Read about Egyptian fractions and history of Egyptian mathematics by selecting the links. This interactive site will invite inquiry.
- **Egyptology Online** <http://www.egyptologyonline.com/introduction.htm> The National Home Study group in the U.K. invites visitors who are interested in Ancient Egypt to explore and use their free resources. Although the goal of this site is to recruit individuals for their courses, the information they provide is valuable for the classroom. Short descriptive articles covering pyramids, tombs, monuments, hieroglyphs, and famous pharaohs are wonderful for research. Each topic is generously illustrated with color photographs and drawings. One feature worth noting for primary source aficionados is the story of David

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

Roberts, the first British artist to sketch the fantastic monuments of ancient Egypt. A few of his lithographs accompany the biography. This site is well-designed and easy to navigate.

- **The Cleveland Museum Of Art: Egyptomania** <http://www.clevelandart.org/kids/egypt/index.html> Find brief information about daily life in Egypt. Play an interactive game like Hounds and Jackals. Print and color pictures. Take a quiz to test your knowledge about Egypt. Build a Pharaoh. Discover the animals that live in Egypt through photographs and art. Egyptomania is another good resource for teachers and students.
- **Egypt's Golden Empire** <http://www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/> PBS provides a wealth of resources to complement its program, Egypt's Golden Empire. Start by reading about the accomplishments of people who prospered during this era. Next, check out the special features such as Virtual Egypt where you can explore key sites through panoramic views or the Virtual Library with primary sources such as paintings and sculptures. For educators, there are a variety of lessons from architectural marvels to science and technology that incorporate video clips from the film. Middle and high school teachers will find this site invaluable.
- **Explore the Pyramids** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pyramids/pyramids.html> Who built the pyramids? How were they constructed? What artifacts were buried in the tombs? Find the answers to these questions and more at this National Geographic website.
- **Mummies Unmasked** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/9906/mummies/index.html> Learn all about the rituals of mummy making at this National Geographic site. After a brief explanation about the religious rite, students will learn about mummy making by scrolling over an artist's rendition of the process. In addition there are links to additional sites and a list of suggested books about the subject.
- **Newton's Apple: Mummies** <http://www.newtonsapple.tv/TeacherGuide.php?id=1422%20-%2021k> Archaeologists discover mummies that have remained intact. How is this done? Surviving the test of time has always fascinated scientists and archaeologists. Learn the secrets of making a mummy. Use an apple and follow the recipe. What materials were used to treat the body? View the online video and examine a real mummy from the Science Museum of Minnesota. Scientists discuss the process of mummification as well as the techniques used to examine mummies without unwrapping them. This Twin Cities Public Television site offers a wealth of information on mummies and mummification.
- **Think Like an Egyptian** <http://www.fi.edu/learn/tut/index.html> Presented by the Franklin Institute and sponsored by Mellon, this site includes many resources for the teaching of science while studying Ancient Egypt. There is a guide for educators that takes the Tutankhamen exhibit and provides K-12 science connections. They all correlate to the National Science Foundation standards. The K-4 science activities provide hands-on science for simple machines, hieroglyphs, and water. Many simple machines were used in building the pyramids, and students are provided with directions for creating their own simple machines. The science of hieroglyphs involves encoding and decoding ancient writing. Use the code to create and translate Egyptian writing. Determine your use of water while following the activity booklet's suggestions for water conservation. Activities for grades 5-8 include the topics of mummification, hieroglyphs, and weather and climate. Each includes hands-on activities for students. The 9-12 curriculum topics are hieroglyphs, medicine, and mummification, and experiments appropriate for high school students are incorporated.
- **Ancient Egypt Clip Art And Fonts** Jazz up your lessons with free clip art and inexpensive fonts from these sites. Be sure to read their use policies.
  - Ancient Egyptian Clip Art <http://www.kingtutone.com/clipart/>
  - Ancient Egyptian Clip Art by Phillip Martin <http://www.phillipmartin.info/clipart/egypt.htm>
  - Font Menu (\$9.95 Windows) [http://www.fontmenu.com/site/\\_nahkt-hierogphyphs.html](http://www.fontmenu.com/site/_nahkt-hierogphyphs.html)
  - Free Egyptian Clip Art <http://www.webweaver.nu/clipart/egyptian.shtml>
  - Clipart ETC: Florida's Educational Technology Clearinghouse <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/index.htm>
  - Neferchichi's Fonts (\$15.99 Mac and Windows) <http://www.neferchichi.com/fonts.html>

**Everybody Else Is Doing It!** By: Mary Ann Bell, MultiMedia & Internet@Schools, 15464636, Nov/Dec2008, Vol. 15, Issue 6 The article reviews several blogs that can be influential means of online collaboration between students and teachers, including the Goddess of YA Literature, the Cool Cat Teacher Blog, and the Principal's Office.

**Blogs about Books And Authors** Librarians and language arts teachers certainly want students to be able to access blogs about books and authors. Here are some of the many options out there:

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- Author Meg Cabot has been blogging for quite some time and is popular with YA readers: Check out her blog at <http://www.megcabot.com/diary/>.
- Printz Award winner John Green can be found at <http://www.sparksflyup.com/weblog.php>.
- Cynthia Leitich Smith's popular blog, Cynsations, is located at <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com>.
- Teacher and librarian blogs about books are even more numerous, with every student age level represented by gifted reviewers and writers. My favorite is that of my friend and colleague, Teri Lesesne, Ph.D. It is called The Goddess of YA Literature; it can be found at <http://professornana.livejournal.com>.
- Another favorite of mine is New York Public librarian Elizabeth Bird's blog about children's literature [www.schoollibraryjournal.com](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com). She posts several times a day with wonderful comments for those of us who love children's books.

**Science Blogs** How about science? As testing woes continue, this is an area where students certainly could use some inspiration and teachers could benefit by sharing ideas. Here are some examples that could be cited:

- Kids and teachers alike will enjoy this one by Steve Spangler (of Mentos/soda pop geyser fame-go ahead, look it up!) at <http://www.stevespangler.com/>.
- I got off-track and lost 30 minutes or so enjoying the Cool Cat Teacher Blog at <http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com>.
- Curious Cat has a great title and loads of interesting material: See <http://engineering.curiouscatblog.net>.
- Another favorite is <http://msfrizzle.blogspot.com>.

**Blogs about Online Safety** Since safety is touted as a reason to block Web 2.0 access, how about sharing some blogs that teach safe internet use?

- Our first stop would have to be Nancy Willard's Weblog <http://csriu.wordpress.com>. This nationally known expert on online safety and filtering should be a familiar name and resource for all educators.
- This one is from Boston Public Schools <http://bpsinternetsafety.blogspot.com>, thus showing a district blogging about being safe online.

**Administrator Blogs** Another thing that could impress an administrator is the use of blogs by his or her peers. I asked listserv members for some examples and was pleased to find so many. Here are some interesting and informative blogs by school districts, superintendents, and principals:

- This link to an article in American Association of School Administrators journal <http://www.aasa.org/publications/saarticledetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6065> was written by a blogging superintendent.
- This superintendent uses a blog <http://www2.wausau.k12.wi.us/iblog/smurley> to share news about happenings in his district, Wausau, Wis.
- A district with a number of blogs listed on its main webpage, starting with one by the superintendent and also sharing many other districtwide blogs, can be found at <http://www.bethel.k12.or.us/html/blogs.html>.

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- The Principal's Office, located at <http://senttotheoffice.blogspot.com/> is a blog about a "typical high school" in Connecticut.
- Glenn Moses is an assistant principal with a blog, a wiki, and many other interesting projects: Check them out at <http://mrmoses.org>.
- And let's not be gender exclusive-From the Principal's Desk by Jeanette Johnson is located at <http://principalblogs.typepad.com/jeanettejohnson/>.

**Blogs From Nearby Schools and Districts** Finally, it may be especially effective to find a school and district near yours where teachers and students are using Web 2.0. I grew up in central Texas, in a picturesque town halfway between Austin and San Antonio. If I needed to build a case for access in that particular area, I would look for neighboring districts and would not have to go to the big towns to find examples.

- In a previous life, I taught language arts in Spring Branch ISD, Texas, and I still live in the Houston metroplex area. This blog is one of many associated with this district, an area and national leader in using Web 2.0 with students. It is called A Library by Any Other Name and can be found at <http://alibraryisalibrary.blogspot.com>.
- The previously mentioned blog is linked to Spring Branch ISD's district library page <http://library.springbranchisd.com/library-resources>. The access enjoyed in this district is in no small part due to the leadership of director Barry Bishop, Ph.D.

**Links to More Information from My Resources**

- My Delicious links can be found at <http://delicious.com/drmariyannbell-if> you go to my heading "blogs," you will find more than 100 educational blogs that I have deemed worth sharing. I also have a heading called "share" for educational sites in general that I want to share with students and colleagues.
- The For Whom the Bell Told wiki <http://forwhomthebelltold.pbwiki.com> has additional information and presentations about Web 2.0, blogs, and filtering. This site also has a page with my other sites, including Shelfari, Twitter, and links to all my surveys.

The above information and comments are from Mary Ann Bell, Associate Professor of Library Science Sam Houston State University Huntsville, Texas, author of *Internet and Personal Computer Fads*, Haworth Press, 2004, and *Cybersins and Digital Good Deeds: A Book About Technology and Ethics*, Haworth Press, 2006. She can be reached by email at [lis\\_mah@shsu.edu](mailto:lis_mah@shsu.edu).

**Net Watch.** By: Kathie Felix, MultiMedia & Internet@Schools, 15464636, Nov/Dec2008, Vol. 15, Issue 6 This section offers news briefs on Internet-related technology and educational services in the U.S. The Tech Museum of Innovation is a hands-on technology and science museum designed to inspire the innovator in everyone. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens offers a variety of digital education materials and experiences, including an educator blog and online lesson plans. The Teachscape Module of the Month Club provides access to one or more free online modules within the Teachscape XL professional development platform.

- **Technology Disaster Recovery Checklist** The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) provides a free disaster recovery checklist online at <http://cosn.org/docs/CoSN%20-%20Disaster%20Recovery%20Checklist.pdf>. The 10-item list covers everything from identifying and contacting the individuals in charge of recovery efforts to contacting FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), re-establishing payroll quickly, and recovering data. Explanations and tips are offered, as are links to online resources. The checklist is available for use by all educational

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

technology professionals. CoSN, <http://www.cosn.org/>

- **Tech Museum Online** The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, Calif., is a hands-on technology and science museum designed to inspire the innovator in everyone. The museum's online component includes "interactivities" such as the Tech Virtual collaborative design platform for developing museum exhibits and online "exhibits" on topics including Understanding Genetics and Robotics: Sensing, Thinking, Acting. The Tech Museum of Innovation, <http://www.thetech.org/>
- **Mount Vernon** George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens offers a variety of digital education materials and experiences, including a virtual mansion tour, educator blog, and online lesson plans grouped by grade level. Free satellite-delivered distance learning broadcasts are offered; previously broadcast programs are available at no charge on DVD (one per school). The DVD titles include "The Real Martha Washington," "History Meets Hollywood," "Seed to Table: Farming at Mount Vernon," and "Slavery at Mount Vernon." Mount Vernon Estate, <http://www.mountvernon.org/>
- **Free Professional Development Modules** The Teachscape Module of the Month Club provides access to one or more free online modules within the Teachscape XL professional development platform. November's free module is titled "English Language Development at High School." The free December modules are "Book Review: Speech to Print" and "Book Review: Overcoming Dyslexia." Club members receive an email message on the first of the month announcing the selected online course and providing a free Teachscape username and password. Registration for the club is free at <http://www.teachscape.com/xl/>, Teachscape, <http://www.teachscape.com/html/ts/nps/index.html>
- **Free NET\*S Training Videos** The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) offers From Paper to Practice, a free video series that takes a look at the ways educators are implementing the updated National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NET\*S). The ISTE website provides a link to the videos, additional information, and a discussion board designed to help educators share resources, ideas, and lesson plans that embed the technology standards for students. ISTE, <http://www.iste.org/>
- **Classroom Jeopardy! Contest** The Classroom Jeopardy! StandardsLink competition offers educators a chance to win a grand prize that includes a Game Event at the winning school, a Classroom Jeopardy! game unit, a Classroom Jeopardy! StandardsLink cartridge set in the winner's choice of grade levels, and a coupon for a 20% discount on additional Classroom Jeopardy! products. To enter, teachers answer Classroom Jeopardy! questions online at <http://www.etaquisenaire.com/jeopardy/contest.jsp>. Each correct answer enters the teacher's name in the prize drawing. Multiple correct answers increase the odds of winning. The last day for online questions and answers is Dec. 29, 2008. The grand prize winner will be chosen on Jan. 16, 2009. Additional prizes will be awarded throughout the contest. ETA/Cuisenaire, <http://www.etaquisenaire.com/>

**Educational Gaming--From Edutainment to Bona Fide 21st-Century Teaching Tool**, By: Etuk, Ntiedo, MultiMedia & Internet@Schools, 15464636, Nov/Dec2008, Vol. 15, Issue 6 The article focuses on educational gaming as a 21st-century teaching tool in the U.S. It is noted that the use of games in education began around 1984 when teacher Jan Davidson created the Math Blaster software program for use on the Apple II personal computer. According to the article, educational games have evolved in the 21st century thanks to entrepreneur-developers who believe that today's products must be anchored in more specific pedagogical design principles. The resources and references included in the article are as listed below:

- Tabula Digita, Inc. <http://www.tabuladigita.com/>
- Knowledge Adventure, Inc. <http://www.knowledgeadventure.com/>
- Grockit <http://www.grockit.com/login>
- Muzzy Lane Software <http://www.muzzylane.com/>

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

- IBM PowerUP <http://www.powerupthegame.org/>
- *Digital Game-Based Learning* by Marc Prensky; McGraw-Hill Co., 2000.
- *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy, Second Edition* by James Paul Gee; Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

**In The Spotlight.** Kathie Felix, MultiMedia & Internet@Schools, 15464636, Nov/Dec2008, Vol. 15, Issue 6  
**Google Apps Education Edition** Google, Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043.  
 Phone: (650) 253-0000 Internet: <http://www.google.com/>  
 Google Apps Education Edition offers email, calendar, and collaboration tools directly from a computer browser. The online resources include Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Talk, Google Video, Google Docs, Google Sites, Start Page, and 24/7 support.

The Gmail (email) component provides 6.5GB per account with IMAP (internet message access protocol), POP (post office protocol), mobile access, and spam and virus protection. The Google Calendar feature offers multiple calendars, room and resource scheduling options, and mobile access. Google Talk provides instant messaging, free calling, VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), voicemail, and file transfer capabilities.

The new Google Video tool allows secure video sharing of recorded classes, lectures, school events, and more. The feature includes 3GB of video storage per video user; anyone can add comments, tags, and ratings. Access to this tool is free through March 8, 2009. After that date, the price is \$10 per user per year.

Google Docs provides word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and mobile access applications. Students and teachers can share documents, spreadsheets, and presentations online without working with attachments.

The Google Sites component enables team website creation using videos, images, and gadgets. Students or teachers can create websites designed to provide a single location to share documents, videos, calendars, charts, and other information.

The Start Page option customizes a homepage with access to school information and gadgets including weather, Gmail, games, and more. Students and teachers can choose to use their homepages to preview inboxes and calendars, to access school content, and to search the web.

The API (advanced programming interface) for integration features include a single sign-on provision, user provisioning and management, email navigation, support of the email gateway, and email routing controls for dual delivery. Advanced configuration options are available.

Google Apps Education Edition is free for educational institutions and includes no advertising aimed at students, faculty, and staff. Additional security and compliance software is available at a 66% educational discount. The add-ons include Message Security at a cost of \$4 per user and Message Discovery priced at \$8.50 per user.

The Message Security feature offers inbound/outbound email filtering, predefined and customizable filters, and policy-based encryption. The Message Discovery option includes message security, hosted email archiving, web-based administration, and archive search, export, and reporting functions.

The Google Apps Education Edition homepage is <http://www.google.com/a/help/intl/en/edu/index.html>

**ALA's Association for Library Service to Children Announces Exceptional Web Sites for Children**

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, has added sites to *Great Web Sites for Kids*, its online resource containing hundreds of links to commendable websites for children. <http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/default.cfm>

**FROM THE MAILBAG, cont'd.**

Great Web Sites for Kids (GWS) features links to valuable websites of interest to children, organized by subject headings such as animals; literature and languages; mathematics and computers; the arts; and history and biography. There is also a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers and teachers, plus an area devoted to sites in Spanish. The ALSC Great Web Sites for Kids Committee maintains and updates the site.

ALSC's GWS Committee voted to add the following sites in fall 2008:

- Adolescent Literacy - <http://www.adlit.org/>
- Bob the Builder - <http://www.bobthebuilder.com/usa/index.asp>
- Career Information for Kids - <http://www.bls.gov/k12/>
- The Children's Book Review - <http://www.thechildrensbookreview.com/>
- Exploring Nature Educational Resource - <http://www.exploringnature.org/>
- The Federal Communications Commission Kids Zone – <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/kidszone/>
- GoGooligans - <http://www.gogooligans.com/>
- The Harry Potter Lexicon - <http://www.hp-lexicon.org/>
- Leading to Reading - <http://www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/>
- Nutrition Explorations: Kids - <http://www.nutritionexplorations.com/kids/main.asp>
- The Road to the Capitol/National Mock Election - <http://www.nationalmockelection.org/game/>
- Vicki Cobb's Science Page - <http://www.vickicobb.com/>
- We Shall Overcome Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement National Register Travel Itinerary <http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/civilrights/>
- Ziggity Zoom - <http://www.ziggityzoom.com/>
- ZOOM by Kids, for Kids! - <http://pbskids.org/zoom/help/contact/general.html>

**NEWEST eTHEMES**

**Aerodynamics for High School** Learn about aerodynamics and related physics laws. Includes tutorials, presentations, interactive simulations, and experiments. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Aerodynamics, Science: Rockets, and Aviation: Wright Brothers.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002389.shtml>

**Delaware: Famous People** These sites provide lists of famous and notable people from Delaware. Learn about these people from a wide variety of disciplines. Read about famous illustrators, writers, astronomers, first ladies, and many more. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on Delaware: State Facts and Symbols.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002392.shtml>

**Delaware: Geography and Landforms** These websites are about the geography and landforms of Delaware. Includes information about physical geography and state parks. There are maps, facts, printouts, and photographs. Included is an eThemes Resource on Delaware state facts and symbols.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002393.shtml>

**Delaware: History** Learn about the history of Delaware and the people who lived in the area. There is information about local legacy, notable people, as well as historical landmarks and architecture. Includes primary documents and lesson plans. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on Delaware: State Facts and Symbols.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002394.shtml>

**Delaware: State Facts and Symbols** This site includes information about Delaware state history, state symbols, education, economy, statistics, as well as fun facts about the state. Explore state maps and take a quiz to test your knowledge on Delaware geography. There are also links to eThemes Resources on geography and landforms, history, and famous people of Delaware. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002390.shtml>

**Early Settlement of North America** These sites are about early European settlement of North America. There is information about Spanish, English, French, and Dutch colonization, including period images and maps. Find out what daily life was like for kids, men, and women. Included are two related eThemes Resources on Colonial life.

**NEWEST eTHEMES, cont'd.**

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002366.shtml>

**Food: Food Science** These sites provide activities and experiments to help students connect real world applications of chemistry, biology, and physics to food. Learn about food components, food processing, chemical reaction, and more; includes activity guides, experiments, quizzes, and presentations. There are links to eThemes Resources on Food Safety and Diet and Nutrition. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002386.shtml>

**Geography: Human Characteristics of a Place** These sites are about human characteristics of a place, specifically the area around St. Louis and the Missouri River. Find out about the population, architecture, economics, transportation network, and more. Included is an eThemes Resource on the five themes of geography. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002373.shtml>

**Grammar: Greek and Latin Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes** These sites provide online resources for practicing Greek and Latin word part vocabulary. They focus on Greek and Latin root words, prefixes, and suffixes. There are online quizzes, interactive games, and a lesson plan, as well as word lists. There is a link to eThemes Resource on Grammar: Prefixes and Suffixes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002387.shtml>

**Logic Puzzle Games for Upper Grades** These sites have logic puzzles and mind-challenging games for elementary students to practice logic reasoning skills. There are many Sudoku and variations. Included are both online and printable versions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002396.shtml>

**Reading Tips for Parents** These sites provide resources as well as information for parents to help their children read at home; includes reading tips, strategies, and activities to reinforce reading skills at home. There are downloadable resources and activity guides. There is also a link to eThemes Resources on graphic organizers. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002388.shtml>

**Technology: iMovie: Creating Videos** These sites provide resource help to create a movie using iMovie. Learn how to get started with iMovie, shoot a video, as well as edit the movie. Includes tips and techniques, video demonstrations, troubleshooting, and tutorials. There is also a link to eThemes Resource on Movie Maker Projects. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002395.shtml>

**UPDATED eTHEMES**

**Family** These websites are about families. Children can learn about the different types of families that there are in the world. There are many student activities such as make a family tree, paint a family portrait, or make a poster about how they celebrate special occasions in their families. There are also eThemes Resources about grandparents. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001730.shtml>

**Holiday: Thanksgiving** These sites are about the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Includes games, videos, art projects, lesson plans, and other activities. Includes links to eThemes Resources on turkeys, the fall harvest, Pilgrims of Plymouth, the Wampanoag tribe, and the Mayflower voyage. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000445.shtml>

**Native American Culture** Learn more about the cultures of various Native American tribes. Some sites emphasize that these are "live" cultures because there are more than a million American Indians living today. Watch videos of a powwow, read biographies of famous Native Americans, and view paintings and photographs. Includes population statistics on the largest tribes and information about the controversy over the use of Native Americans as school mascots. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001123.shtml>

**Native Americans: Lifestyles** These sites focus on Native American lifestyles and how they lived in early days. Learn about values, norms, cultures, traditions, and customs of Native American Indians and how those things affected their lifestyles. Includes pictures, games, lesson plans, and worksheets. There are links to eThemes Resources on Native American Culture, Pocahontas, the Wampanoag Indians, and Native American Mound Builders. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001885.shtml>

**UPDATED eTHEMES, cont'd.**

**Native Americans: Plains Indians** These sites are about the lifestyle of the Plains Indians. Topics include food, shelter, clothing, religion, and crafts. There is also information about buffalo, several video and audio files, and interactive quizzes. Included are eThemes Resources on individual tribes.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000520.shtml>

**Science: Pollution** These sites are about different forms of pollution and how it affects our environment. Topics include water quality, acid rain, smog, oil spills, and more. There are online games, classroom activities, and maps. Includes links to eThemes Resources on the greenhouse effect, recycling, Earth Day, and going green.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000211.shtml>

**Thirteen Colonies: Daily Life** These sites are about daily life in colonial period. Learn about the colonists' education, clothing, chores, and games; includes online quizzes and some videos. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on early settlements of North America and the Pilgrims. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000526.shtml>

**Writing: 6 + 1 Writing Traits** The 6 + 1 Writing Traits Model gives students and teachers a common language for talking about writing. The following sites have definitions, descriptions, rubrics, and exercises to help students become familiar with the characteristics of good writing. There are many interactive features so students can practice their own writing and learn how to evaluate effectively. There are video clips, prompts, activates, and examples of writing at different levels of accomplishment, as well as eThemes Resources on grammar, narrative, and text structure. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001707.shtml>