

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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[Newline Submission Guidelines](#)

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs – *No news for November*

Federal Title II.D and ARRA funding

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has awarded both regular Title II.D and ARRA-funded Title II.D grants to state education agencies. Both state grants are subject to a five percent withhold for DESE administration and roughly ten percent for the nonpublic school bypass contract. The remaining 85 percent [flow-through funding] is distributed equally via Formula and Competitive grants. Note that districts [and DESE] must keep separate records for the different funding sources. See ED guidance at: [Guidance on EETT Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)

- **Formula Grants:** Formula grants, based on district Title I.A allocations, are administered by DESE Federal Grants Management staff. Districts apply for these funds via the ePeGS [consolidated] Federal Grants Application.
- **Competitive Grants:** A total of 24 competitive grants were awarded: 10 with regular Title II.D funding and 14 with ARRA funding. The table below lists the districts. To learn more about these projects, read their project summaries at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federal/funded/TitleIID/documents/FY10TitleIID-ARRAProjectSummaries.pdf>.

Title II.D – Continuation eMINTS grants

East Newton Co. R-VI (Granby)
Fulton 58
Hancock Place
Putnam Co. R-I (Unionville)
Richmond R-XVI
School of the Osage R-II
Sullivan
Westran R-I (Huntsville)

Title II.D – New eMINTS grants

Gasconade Co. R-I (Hermann)
Jefferson City

ARRA – New eMINTS grants

Cameron R-I
Cassville R-IV
Lebanon R-III
North Kansas City 74
Sedalia 200
Sikeston R-6
St. Louis City
Wellston

ARRA – New Other (non-eMINTS) grants

Arcadia Valley R-II (Ironton)
Blue Springs R-IV
Columbia 93
Eldon R-I
Ritenour AND Ferguson-Florissant R-II
Nixa R-II

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Regular Featured Items

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities
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To learn about the projects funded in 2008-09 and their end-of-year reports, see:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/documents/FY09EETTPENSummary-WebPosting.pdf>.

FY09 State Safe Schools Program

Missouri House Bill 22 appropriated Federal Budget Stabilization Funding for continued support of the Safe Schools grant program. This funding supports the following 41 continuation grants (existing projects). To learn more about these projects, read their project summaries at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/documents/FY10ProjectSummaries.pdf>.

Grant-recipient District	Grant Type	Grant Year	Grant-recipient District	Grant Type	Grant Year
Allen Village Charter	D	4	Mexico 59	D	4
Arcadia Valley R-II	D	4	Mountain Grove R-III	D	4
Bismarck	D	2	Otterville R-VI	D	4
Blue Springs R-IV	D	4	Perry County 32	D	2
Carrollton R-VII	D	4	Portageville	D	4
Chillicothe R-II	C	4	Raymore- Peculiar R-II	D	2
Clinton County R-III	P	2	Richland R-IV	C	4
Crawford County R-I	D	3	Rockwood R-VI	D	4
Dallas County R-I	D	4	Sedalia 200	D	2
De Soto 73	D	4	St. Clair R-XIII	D	4
Eldon R-I	D	4	St. Louis City Public Sc	D	4
Ferguson-Florissant R-II	D	4	St. Joseph	D	4
Genesis School Inc.	D	2	School of the Osage R-II	D	3
Hazelwood	D	4	South Callaway County R-II	D	2
Hollister R-V	D	2	Southern Reynolds R-II	D	4
Humansville R-IV	P	4	Special School District	D	3
Independence 30	D	3	Sullivan	D	2
Jefferson City	D	4	Troy R-III	D	4
Laclede County R-I	D	4	Waynesville R-VI	D	3
Maplewood Richmond Heights	D	4	Wright City R-II	D	2
Maryville R-II	C	5			

D = District grant P = Partnership grant (2 districts) C = Consortium grant (3 or more districts)

MOREnet K-12 Technology Network Program (TNP) – Proposed fee increase for 2011

While MOREnet's core budget item was reduced for FY10 and then subjected to extra withholding, MOREnet and DESE decided this summer to not increase TNP membership fees for FY10 (except for districts that have received bandwidth increases in the past year that will be assessed higher fees for the extra bandwidth). Note, however, 1) it was determined that it will be necessary to increase fees for FY11, and 2) MOREnet received word of another withhold on October 29, 2009, because of declining state revenues – TNP members can look for more information to be distributed in the coming weeks.

District Technology Planning – Reminder of plans due for state approval April 2010

Instructional Technology mailed information in August to the 200+ districts and charter schools with technology plans due for state approval in spring 2010. As the USPS packets and the August 20 follow-up listserv message indicated, these schools must develop and submit new long-range technology plans addressing school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. The plans must be submitted via ePeGS by April 15, with a paper copy of the ePeGS-created plan sent to Instructional Technology by the same date. Copies of the letter and guidance

documents that were sent, and a copy of the Warren county plan that was considered a model during the 2009 review, can be accessed from the District Planning website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/>.

2009 ePeGS LESSONS LEARNED –

Using ePeGS resulted in much shorter plan documents with standardized formatting focusing primarily on plans' objectives, strategies, and action steps. The readers/evaluators, once accustomed to the format and how and where to find the information aligned to the scoring criteria, stated that it was easy to review and score the plans for state approval. However, the transition was not without stress and shortcomings.

First, districts had to make sure certain staff had proper ePeGS privileges for entering, revising, and submitting plans for approval; staff had to become acquainted with the system's structure and learn how to initiate/create the ed-tech plan, how to tie objectives and strategies to the ePeGS goals and the state's technology focus areas (TFAs), select and save data from drop-down menus, create and enter appropriate progress measures, etc.

Then district staff had to make sure the plan addressed all the approval criteria. In 2008, approximately one in four plans did not meet approval because they failed to adequately address all five TFAs, have specific, measurable progress measures, adequately address the major goals of the NCLB Title II.D program (including teacher professional development and 8th-grade student technology literacy), and complete or provide sufficient detail regarding the planned process for evaluating the plan (located in the plan's additional elements).

2009 October Workshop Materials Posted –

The presentation slide and related handouts from Instructional Technology's three-hour pre-conference session at the 2009 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference are posted on the district planning website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/>.

- The presentation slides include the nuts and bolts of technology planning, what plans must include to be approved by the state and why, and helpful hints from the Warren County R-III and Cassville R-IV school districts. (<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/documents/Oct09MITCpresentation.pdf>)
- Warren County's ePeGS-created technology plan was considered an exemplary plan during the 2009 review process. <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/documents/WarrenCoePeGSTechPlanApril09.pdf>.

Census of Technology – 2009 Summary report and aggregated data forms posted on web

The state summary report and a pdf version of the Census of Technology (COT), with final tallies from the 551 districts and charter schools and 2,250 buildings who entered data in 2009, have been posted on the COT website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>.

The annual Census provides districts with data useful for local technology planning and evaluation – and to meet increased accountability and reporting required for ARRA-funded programs – and provides DESE with valuable information for reporting progress on meeting goals and objectives of state and federal ed-tech grant programs (such as Title II.D) and state and national ed-tech plans.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Project RED ranks Missouri 11th in tech-rich schools

<http://projectred.org/news/>

Project RED: Revolutionizing Education is measuring how technology can help schools save money and improve instruction. Researchers began by creating a database of tech-rich schools that have roughly the same number of computing devices as students. On October 5, Project RED released state rankings based on their rates of "technology-rich schools." For all fifty states, roughly 5% of schools have invested in computing devices for each student. South Dakota ranks first, with 24% of schools have made this investment. The following five states, representing 29 percent of all students in U.S. schools, have the greatest **NUMBER** of tech-rich schools: Texas, New York, Illinois, Ohio, and Florida. Rural states, especially those with a history of distance learning, also rank well. The states with highest **PERCENTAGE** of schools providing ongoing technology access to most of their students include: South Dakota, Maine, Wyoming, Kansas, and North Dakota. Missouri is ranked 11th, with 9% of schools considered high-tech. Note that Project RED is still searching for data and feedback, and the database might change as more

State and National News, cont'd.

successful one-to-one technology programs in different states come to light. (For more information about Project RED, see article below under *Research, Publications, Resources*.)

ED unveils Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund program priorities

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/10/10062009a.html>

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has proposed its funding priorities and selection criteria for the \$650 million "Investing in Innovation Fund," also known as i3, a program that was introduced as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The competitive grant program is open to individual school districts, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations in partnership with schools. Like most of ED's stimulus initiatives, i3 is grounded in four connected reform areas: better use of data, higher standards and rigorous assessments, teacher effectiveness and the turnaround of low-performing schools.

The competition will have three levels of funding that increase on the basis of projects' past success and scalability: 1) "Development Grants" of up to \$5 million dollars for promising ideas that should be tried; 2) "Validation Grants" of up to roughly \$30 million for existing programs that need to build a research base or organizational capacity to succeed on a larger scale; and 3) "Scale-Up Grants" grants that will go as high as \$50 million for proven programs that are ready to grow and impact thousands of students.

SETDA names new executive director

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

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) announced Douglas Levin will lead the organization, beginning November 16, taking the reins from current SETDA Executive Director Mary Ann Wolf. According to SETDA board of directors, Mr. Levin was selected to lead the association based on his professional accomplishments and broad based knowledge of educational technology, state and federal policy, and education research. As the deputy executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), Levin launched an effort to spur innovation in state textbook and instructional materials adoption policies in light of innovations in digital and open educational resources. Prior to his work at NASBE, Levin served as senior director of education policy at Cable in the Classroom, the national education foundation of the cable industry, and before that as a principal research analyst with the American Institutes for Research. He was instrumental in the development of the nation's first educational technology plan in 1996 and its two subsequent updates across both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**Project RED database of high-tech schools**

<http://projectred.org/>

The Project RED project (sponsored by Intel, Apple, the Pearson Foundation, Qwest, and eChalk) is researching the effects of well-implemented technology-transformed schools on student achievement and state revenue, intending to define a model for success that can be replicated by schools across the country to assure both improvements in academic performance and financial value from future education technology investments. Project RED has completed the first step by creating a database of more than 6,000 U.S. public and private schools that have strong technology environments. The database reveals a national average of about 5.4 percent of schools with ubiquitous technology programs, reaching about 4 percent of students. A comparison of where states rank according to the percentage of their schools or students with ubiquitous ed-tech access was released in October (see related article under *State and National News*). An advisory board will choose several states with exemplary ed-tech initiatives to serve as showcase states.

NOTE: Project RED is still searching for data and feedback from public and private schools that have ubiquitous technology programs. Principals at schools using laptops, smart phones, iPods, and other devices are encouraged to visit the Project RED website and submit their information. The survey is used to analyze what's working in technology-transformed schools, what factors contributed to the success or failure of their programs, and what cost savings resulted from technology implementations, whether these savings come from e-learning, professional development, concurrent enrollment, data mapping, special needs programs, and the like. To complete the survey, visit: <http://projectred.org/survey.php>.

E-RATE PROGRAM – Updates

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

Passed last fall, this act requires schools receiving federal ed-tech funding to teach students about Internet safety and established an Online Safety and Technology Working Group to evaluate online safety education efforts. Although the law was scheduled to take effect this year, there hasn't been any regulation to implement the legislation. Currently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is working on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the requirements in the act. After that notice is issued, there will be a comment period for the public respond. Once the comment period has closed and comments have been reviewed, FCC will issue an order containing information about any new requirements or rule changes for E-rate program participants.

In the meantime, Missouri schools are reminded of the following resources and services available through MOREnet:

MOREnet's Internet Safety events, promoted nationwide, help bring information and resources to students, parents and members of the community to help everyone stay safer online. Topics addressed include online predators, cyberbullying, identity theft and other Internet-related security issues. Participants at any of the local events can see, hear, ask and answer questions in real time with participants at any of the other sites! See: <http://www.more.net/content/internet-safety-events>

NetSmartz Workshop® is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® and Boys & Girls Clubs of America for children (ages 5-17), parents, guardians, educators and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.

- The NetSmartz Workshop can be accessed at <http://www.NetSmartz.org>.
- Missouri-specific materials are available from <http://www.netsmartz.org/education/mo/>.
- MOREnet offers [training on how to implement NetSmartz Workshop](#) materials into a school or library.

Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs)

FY2009 – USAC released **Wave 25** FCDLs on **October 27** that includes commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (telecom services and Internet access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels and Priority 2 requests (internal connections and basic maintenance) at/above the 85% discount level. To date FY2009 commitments total \$1.2 billion.

FY2008 – USAC released **Wave 71** FCDLs on **October 28** that includes commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (telecom services and Internet access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels and Priority 2 requests To date FY2009 commitments total \$2.3 billion. [Note that funds rolled over from prior years can raise total commitments above the \$2.25 billion funding-year cap.]

USAC will continue to issue FCDLs for funding years 2009, 2008, and 2007 until funds are exhausted. To check to see if you have a commitment, use USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

eMINTS teachers present model classroom experience at National School Boards Association Technology + Learning Conference

Three eMINTS teachers were selected to present at the National School Boards Association Technology + Learning (NSBA T+L) October 27-30, 2009, in Denver, CO. Lori Mathys, elementary eMINTS teacher from Rockwood R-VI; Denis Knight, middle school eMINTS teacher from Junction Hill C-12; and Tish Warner, high school eMINTS teacher from Worth Co R-III, will take turns demonstrating how they teach in their eMINTS classrooms in a model classroom exposition at the conference.

Attendees will be able to participate in the model classroom as either "students" or observers. The "students" will use the equipment in the classroom as the teacher "teaches" a lesson using eMINTS strategies and methods. The observers will listen and ask questions of the session facilitators, Monica Beglau, Executive Director of the eMINTS National Center and Lorie Kaplan, eMINTS Program Director.

eMINTS Update, cont'd.

The classroom equipment is provided courtesy of SMART Technologies, Intel, and Hewlett-Packard. SMART Technologies also sponsored the teachers' travel and NSBA provided complimentary conference registrations.

To see the conference program and a summary of the lessons taught by the teachers go to <http://www.nsba.org/tl/Program/Book.cfm>.

eMINTS collaboration with School Improvement Network (SINET)

The eMINTS National Center is pleased to announce a collaborative venture with the School Improvement Network (SINET). Last spring, eMINTS worked with PD 360 filming crews to shoot video in a number of eMINTS classrooms around the state. The final video shoots are occurring in November 2009. The video will be used in several modules of the PD 360 professional development to show exemplary uses of technology in inquiry-based teaching.

In addition, this relationship will enable eMINTS to use the PD 360 learning platform as part of the eMINTS program delivery methods. Later this fall, eMINTS trainers will have full use of the content available with PD 360, SINET's on-demand professional learning resource to use as examples of various professional development topics taught in the eMINTS professional development programs. Arrangements are currently being made to provide eMINTS staff and participants/graduates of the PD4ETS program with access and training to use the PD 360 videos.

SINET will incorporate eMINTS' high-quality technology training programs into PD 360 to increase PD 360's technology offerings. Most importantly, this new alliance will allow eMINTS and SINET to jointly develop new and expanded content, based on the latest research.

eMINTS in DHE Commissioner Stein's blog

eMINTS was featured in Commissioner Robert Stein's weekly blog from the Department of Higher Education. See: <http://dhemogov.typepad.com>. The Commissioner is a member of the eMINTS Advisory Board and has provided advocacy and support for the eMINTS National Center for many years. His blog captures the essence of the eMINTS Instructional Model and provides another view into the program.

eMINTS Rocks: Synthesizing a Decade of Change 10th Annual Winter Conference

The 10th Anniversary eMINTS Winter Conference planning committee invites the submission of proposals for 1-hour presentations and 3-hour pre-conference workshops at the annual eMINTS Winter Conference to be held in Columbia, MO, March 3 - 5, 2010.

- **Deadline for submissions - November 15, 2009**
- Notification of acceptance - December 5, 2009
- Find details and submit proposal online at <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2010/presenter.shtml>
- Online registration opens in December.
- Watch the conference website for more information about special 10th anniversary events – www.emints.org/events/winter2010

eMINTS events on the website

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

Contact eMINTS

Web – <http://www.emints.org/>

E-mail – emints-info@emints.org

Phone – 573-884-7202

COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE**FREE Professional Development for Elementary and Secondary Science Teachers!**

CSD is pleased to offer this opportunity for participation in the Boeing Grant project for the 2009-2010 school year. The focus for this year of the grant is on elementary and secondary science, and will be led by Matt Kuhn, a STEM

Cooperating School Districts Update, cont'd.

(METS in Missouri) expert from McREL who will present the 2-day workshops. All the classroom teaching strategies are researched-based and will equip teachers with new techniques to engage and motivate students to higher achievement. Dr. Kuhn's presentations will be practical with hands-on practice for the participants and he will emphasize integrating technology in the science curriculum. There are 25 spaces in the 2-day elementary workshop and 25 spaces in the secondary 2-day workshop.

This workshop uses the scientific inquiry process endorsed by the National Science Teachers Association as a framework to integrate technology into the science classroom. Participants will engage in a variety of hands-on activities within each of the five steps of the inquiry process, including web resources, software, digital microscopes, and a variety of scientific probes. Examples will be presented in each of the steps of the inquiry process specific to biology, physics, chemistry, and earth systems. Participants will receive a workshop manual and CD to refer to both during the workshop and when they return to their classrooms.

Dates/Times:

- Elementary science teachers: November 10 & 11;
- Secondary science teachers: November 12 & 13;
- 8:00am - 4:00pm each day (hour for lunch on your own)

Location: The Principia School, 13202 Clayton Rd. St. Louis, MO 63131

Questions/Registration: contact Karen Vaughan at kvaughan@csd.org

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010	Conference
February 8 – 10	Midwest Educational Technology Conference “Reaching Beyond the Cloud” St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO http://metconference.org/moodle2010/

GRANT FUNDING and CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date	Grant Program
2009 December 1	Dairy MAX School Breakfast Grant http://www.healthinschools.org/News-Room/Grant-Alerts/School-Wellness-through-Expanding-Breakfast-Grant-Program.aspx Up to \$1,000 per school to improve student access to nutritious breakfasts
2010 February 1-5	National Green Week The Green Education Foundation sponsors the event. Win prizes for your school. Plant gardens. Promote waste-free snacks. Gov. Jay Nixon has signed a proclamation encouraging Missouri schools to take part in the Green Thumb Challenge. http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=223
March 1	Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp
Ongoing August 19 through January 31	The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge http://wecanchange.com/
Variety	Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

February, May, August, November	Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	Motorola Community Grants http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
June 1, October 15, February 1	NEA Foundation Green Grants This year the program emphasizes "green" projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. www.neafoundation.org/grants .
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites: An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian.
<http://www.fdncenter.org>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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

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

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

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

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

Electronic Learning, 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>

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

Fundraising for Educators Web Resources (A site intended as a starting point for elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers who are interested in learning more about foundations, fundraising, proposal writing, etc.) <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/4edfrais.htm>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grant Funding and Contest 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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

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

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

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab. <http://virtualfieldtrip.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home/31digest.php>
- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

iPods in the classroom

The new "Getting Started with iPod touch" guide makes it easy to begin using the iPod touch in your classroom.

Download a copy at: <http://images.apple.com/education/docs/teachers/Apple-iPodGettingStartedGuide081809.pdf>

Check out these resources and podcasts from the iTunes store for opportunities to use iPods in your classroom.

- **Teacher Development** Edutopia presents a collection of content on Teacher Development addressing the application of learning theory to teaching in actual classrooms.
- **Harvest** "Harvest" follows farm families to the grain elevator, the farmers markets and, in a welcome break from work, the State Fair. Did early spring planting pay off?
- **Clifford's BE BIG with Words** Clifford and friends share their big adventures with kids. Help Clifford, Cleo, and T-Bone give Jetta ideas of things to paint by spelling words.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- **Classics for Kids** <http://www.classicsforkids.com/> This radio show now offers podcasts. Host Naomi Lewin uses music to tell a composer's story, illustrate a musical concept, and pique children's interest in a fun, entertaining way.
- **Stewardship** Learn about the daily choices farming families across the country make to preserve their land, water, and air as they describe what sustainability means on their farms.
- **Convert** Convert is a unit converter and calculator designed with simplicity and usability. This app covers a wide range of unit types, including area, currency, energy, force, and more.

For other podcasting resources, check out these sites

- **Using PodCasting in the Classroom** http://www-cdn.educause.edu/sites/default/files/2007/07/gbayne_ipodlearning.mp3
- **Education Podcast Network** <http://www.epnweb.org/>
- **Grammar Girl** <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>
- **KidCast – Podcasting in the Classroom** <http://www.intelligenic.com/blog/>
- **Open Culture** http://www.openculture.com/2008/02/the_top_25_educational_podcasts_on_itunes_.html
- **Podcast for Educators, Schools and Colleges** <http://www.recap.ltd.uk/podcasting/>
- **Learn out Loud** <http://www.learnoutloud.com/>
- **NPR Podcast Directory** http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php
- **Physics PodCast**
<http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/staff/baslerdale/Ppodcasts.asp>

Scientific American, a staple in school and public libraries, **does podcasts**.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/> There are four podcast series of created by *Scientific American*; **60 Second Science**, **60 Second Psych**, **60 Second Earth**, and a longer set of podcasts called **Science Talk**. *Scientific American's* 60 Second podcasts could be an educational, interesting, and entertaining way to start a science class.

Related resources that may also be of interest.

- **The Why Files - The Science Behind the News** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/07/why-files-science-behind-news.html>
- **Planet Science - Science Games and Lesson Plans** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/05/planet-science-science-games-and-lesson.html>
- **Great Science Activities from Exploratorium** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/03/great-science-activities-from.html>

Ten Spelling Games and Lessons

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/08/ten-spelling-games-and-lessons.html>

Visit this entry on the blog *Free Technology for Teachers: A review of free technology resources and how teachers can use them* for links to Ten Spelling Games and Lessons. The list includes sites based on the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee word list, and spelling games that will remind students of Tetris and Frogger.

Free Technology for Teachers: A review of free technology resources and how teachers can use them

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/08/ten-spelling-games-and-lessons.html>

Check out this blog for a plethora of resources and ideas for using free technology resources in the classroom. Subscribe through RSS or by email.

Arts Edge <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/podcasts/artsedge.html> produced by the Kennedy Center, is a collection of podcasts, lesson plans, and links for teaching music and culture. The podcast directory is where to find an eclectic collection of podcasts featuring music ranging from Jazz in DC to Music from China. The "Teach" section of *Arts Edge* is a good place to find lesson plans for teaching music and culture. Lessons relate to the core subject areas. Not only music teachers take advantage of the offerings from *Arts Edge*. Anyone, like Literature or History teachers, that needs to incorporate lessons on culture and or music can use the podcasts and lessons offered by *Arts Edge*.

The World of Victor <http://www.theworldofvictor.net/> is a multimedia site for toddlers ages 2-4 to learn and develop their imaginations by discovering nature and animals while they play and have fun. Included are games, a

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

gallery, coloring pages, songs, and other activities.

Safety and Comfort Guide

This guide describes proper workstation setup, posture, and health and work habits for computer users.

<http://www.hp.com/ergo/>

The Second Annual Young Minds Digital Times Film Competition (YMDT), a collaboration between KidThrive.org <http://www.kidthrive.org/KidThrive/Home.html> and Converge <http://www.convergemag.com/> magazine, offers an innovative film competition for students around the world to showcase their work, compete against their peers and tackle pressing social issues. Information about the free for students in grades 6-12 competition can be found at <http://www.youngmindsdigitaltimes.com>. The competition features two tracks: Young Filmmakers "Doing Good" and Young Filmmakers Freeform.

In the "Doing Good" Track, students are invited to enter music videos or public service announcements interacting with the Students' Education Proclamation and calling attention to the needs of 21st Century learners. In the Freeform Track, students can enter films on any topic into seven different categories: documentary, short film, animation, music video, one take wonder, non-moving movie and comedic creation. The competition registration runs through February 19, 2010, with films due by March, 19, 2010.

The **Digital Citizenship and Creative Content program** <http://www.digitalcitizenshiped.com/Default.aspx> is a free, turnkey instructional program. The goal is to create an awareness of the rights connected with creative content. Students interact with music, movies, software, and other digital content every day. Do they understand the rules that dictate the ethical use of these digital files, and do they understand why these issues are relevant? The Digital Citizenship and Creative Content program was developed to create awareness of intellectual property rights and foster a better understanding of the rights connected with creative content.

The curriculum is comprised of four units, each consisting of standalone, yet complementary lesson plans that play off a creative rights scenario presented through a case study.

This program was designed for grades 8-10, but easily adapts for use in grades 6-12. It's organized into thematic units that span the following subject areas: Civics, Computer Science, Debate, Economics, Fine Arts, Government, Journalism, Language Arts, Drama, and Video Production.

Freebies for Science Teachers <http://www.nsta.org/publications/freebies.aspx?lid=exp>

An array of free resources for you and your classroom. Clicking on the title takes you to the resource described.

ePals LearningSpace <http://learningspace.epals.com/> is designed to help educators prepare students to thrive in a 21st century workforce where online collaboration skills are increasingly required. Groups are created within the virtual workspace to bring members together around a project or subject of interest.

For administrators, educators and technology leaders, ePals LearningSpace provides the ability to manage project-based learning in a flexible, yet controlled environment under one centralized policy.

Specifically, administrators and educators have the flexibility to create and manage groups and sub-groups with role-based permissions on one centralized platform. ePals LearningSpace provides each group with efficient and easy-to-use social media tools that can be managed and require minimal training.

Learning Space features include: Safe and Secure Policy Management, Tracking & Reporting, Structured Community, Full Web 2.0 Toolkit, Digital Lockers, ePals SchoolMail™, Integrated Access to the ePals Global Community™

Discovery Education Re-launches 'New Teacher Survival Central'

Discovery Education has joined forces with Elmer's Products, Inc., SMART Technologies, and The Clorox Company to **re-launch New Teacher Survival Central**, an online destination featuring an array of classroom resources designed to welcome, support, and reward educators new to the teaching profession.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

Offering tips, tools, and suggestions for easing into the teaching field, New Teacher Survival Central provides educators with essentials such as classroom management techniques, ideas for connecting classroom activities to the curriculum, lesson plans, peer-networking resources, and tools to create engaging learning centers. Visit New Teacher Survival Central at <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/survival/>.

The Science Machine contains links to three dozen online resources to help teach and reinforce important science skills. http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/archives/sciencemachine.shtml

The Math Machine contains links to more than 50 online games to help teach and reinforce important math skills. http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/archives/mathmachine.shtml

Visit **Education World's review** of these three websites of interest to educators.

- **A Book in Time** A site for history teachers, by history teachers. <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2007/r1007-08.shtml>
- **Prehistoric Timeline** An interactive timeline explores the approximately 4.5 billion years of Earth's existence. <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2008/r1008-10.shtml>
- **Neurons** Interactive presentations and animations explore how neurons work and what actions they perform. <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2008/r1008-15.shtml>

From the **PEN Weekly NewsBlast**, published by Public Education Network, a free electronic newsletter featuring resources and information about public school reform, school finance, and related issues. To subscribe, visit <http://www.publiceducation.org>

- **Honeywell: Educators at Space Academy** The Honeywell Educators at Space Academy Program funds five-day scholarships for middle school math and science teachers at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Al. Recipients have 40 hours of intensive classroom, laboratory, and training time, focusing on space science and space exploration, including participation in astronaut-style training and simulations and activities designed to promote life-long learning in a classroom setting. Maximum award: travel, accommodations, materials and five-day tuition. Eligibility: middle school (grades 6-8) science and math teachers. Deadline: December 31, 2009. <http://www51.honeywell.com/hhs/ourprograms-sub/scimathedu-sub/honeywelledu.html?c=31>
- **American Historical Association: Beveridge Family Teaching Prize** The American Historical Association Beveridge Family Teaching Prize recognizes excellence and innovation in elementary, middle school, and secondary history teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives. Maximum award: \$1,500. Eligibility: K-12 teachers in groups. Deadline: March 15, 2010. <http://www.historians.org/teaching/Beveridge.htm>
- **MIT: Lemelson-MIT 2011 InvenTeams** Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams foster inventiveness among high school students. InvenTeams composed of high school students, teachers, and mentors are asked to collaboratively identify a problem that they want to solve, research the problem, and then develop a prototype invention as an in-class or extracurricular project. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: high school science, mathematics and technology teachers -- or teams of teachers -- at public, private and vocational schools; intra- and inter-school collaborations welcome. Deadline: April 25, 2010. <http://web.mit.edu/inventeams/about.html>

Explore educational resources and activities from PBS from their library of Activity Packs.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/>

An activity pack is a set of educational resources focused on a theme and packaged in a widget-format that can be embedded in a class or social media web page. Each pack includes links to PBS websites and a set of activities by grade level K-12, and supplemental activities. Topics include

- **The Arts:** Themes include art history and music. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/arts/>
- **Health and Fitness:** Themes include sports, medicine, and community health. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/health/>
- **Reading and Language Arts:** Themes include American authors, poetry and Shakespeare. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/reading/>
- **Science and Technology:** Themes include oceans, technology & ethics, forensic science and earth day.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/science/>

- **Social Studies:** Themes include global populations, citizenship, the presidency, and democracy around the world. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/activitypacks/socialstudies/>

Create Your Own Museum Design Online! <http://museum.thinkport.org/>

Encourage students to design, online! Young minds will expand as students build their very own museum, select a gallery, and pick images from Thinkport's content bank. This is ideal for a variety of subjects including art, history, social studies and more.

The 2009 Speak Up Survey is Open Now Through December 19th <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/>

The national survey opened this week and is available to all schools around the country. The results provide important insights about education, technology and student aspirations to individual schools, state departments of education and national leaders. For the first time, the 2009 online survey – open now through December 18th for all K-12 students, parents, teachers, pre-service teachers and administrators will ask students about their interest in teaching careers and will include pre-service teachers to get a sense of how the next generation of teachers may differ (or reflect) the opinions of current educators.

In addition to sharing their insights, schools and districts who participate in Speak Up gain free online access to their own aggregated quantitative data – with national benchmark data for comparison. National data findings will be released during two Congressional Briefings in spring, 2010.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Crop Circles These sites are about crop circles. Read general information about crop circles, including its history and different theories on how they are created, as well as a design aspect. Find out how to create crop circles using geometric knowledge and how to implement them on fields. Includes a photo gallery, lesson plans, and interactive reconstructions. There are also links to eThemes Resources on symmetry and circumference of geometry. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002499.shtml>

Literature: "The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System" by Joanna Cole These sites are about "The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System" by Joanna Cole. There are games, activities, and integrated science lessons. Students can use what they've learned to construct models of the planets and solar system using the resources listed here. Included are eThemes resources on the solar system. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002491.shtml>

Literature: "We Beat the Street" by Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins. These sites include information and lesson plans about the book "We Beat the Street" by Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins. Related videos are included of children who have sought to make changes in their lives. Includes eThemes resources on Writing Memoirs, Personal Narrative Writing, the book "Scorpions" by Walter Dean Myers, and African American Firsts. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002497.shtml>

Math: Subtraction Across Zero Learn how to subtract across zeros and regroup numbers. There are interactive tutorials, PowerPoint slides, math games, worksheets, and word problems. There are also links to eThemes Resources on subtraction and addition. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002507.shtml>

Molecular Movement These sites are about molecular movement. Find out how diffusion and osmosis are different, what they are, and what factors affect molecular movement. Includes lesson plans, experiments, interactives, and quizzes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002506.shtml>

Poetry Slams These sites feature resources about poetry slams. Follow lesson plans to help plan a poetry slam, view pictures and videos of poetry slam participants, and find tips for how to write better poetry. There are links to eThemes Resources on the Value of Poetry and Poetry Imagery. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002501.shtml>

Newest eTHEMES, cont'd.

Science Experiments for Elementary These sites have simple experiments that will expose students to scientific methods and processes. Students learn to conduct experiments based on scientific inquiry as well as understanding it at the conceptual level. Includes examples on forming research questions and hypotheses, indentifying dependent and independent variables, presenting data, and writing conclusions. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Scientific Method, Scientific Principles, Science Fair Projects: Ideas and Organization.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002496.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Mammals These sites focus on mammals and the characteristics that make them unique. View many photographs of mammals from all over the world. Find out what they eat and what type of habitat they live in. There is a link to eThemes resources on bats. Includes audio files, video files, and games.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000421.shtml>

Animals: Life Cycles These sites focus on the stages animals go through as they mature. Learn how insects, fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, and humans develop. See videos of animals when they are developing embryos. Watch a chicken hatch from its egg. There are many diagrams that visually represent the life cycle.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000167.shtml>

Scientific Method These sites describe the general method used in scientific research. They also include the research process, the role and purpose of theory, and the history of the method. Includes links to eThemes Resources on science fair projects, scientific principles, understanding science, qualities of a scientist, and science experiments for elementary. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000408.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>

Animals: Mammoths These sites are about mammoths that lived until the end of the Ice Age. Learn about the woolly, Columbian, and the Jefferson's mammoth. There are printable sheets, illustrations, maps, and an animated movie showing mammoths fighting. Includes information about excavating mammoths in Siberia and reasons why scientists believe the animals became extinct. Includes an eThemes resource on Ice Age animals.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001009.shtml>

Animals: Ocean and Sea Creatures Learn more about the hundreds of creatures that live in the oceans and seas. Includes many photos and videos, audio files, and real-time images from Webcams. The animals covered include whales, jellyfish, dolphins, sea turtles, seahorses, and more. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Geography: Oceans and Animals: Sharks. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000626.shtml>

Animals: Owl Pellets Discover how investigating owl pellets can reveal information about owls, their habitats, eating habits, and their place in the food chain. Learn how to dissect pellets, record findings, and analyze them. Includes online dissection practice, games, puzzles, video and audio files, lesson plans, and other activities. There are links to eThemes resources on barn owls and raptors. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001418.shtml>

Animals: Paint Horses Learn about paint horses and their different types of colorful coats. There is a video, photographs, and games. Learn the difference between "paint" and "pinto." Included is a link to an eThemes Resource on horses. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000951.shtml>

Animals: Rabbits and Hares These sites are about rabbits and hares. Learn the similarities and differences between them. There is information on wild rabbits, their behavior, and economic importance to humans, and sites about how to care for domestic rabbits. There are videos, audio clips, lesson plans, and many pictures. Included is an eThemes resource on farm animals. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001947.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Animals: Whales These sites are about whales. Learn about the characteristics, behavior, and classification of whales. Topics include the habitat, life cycle, communication methods, and migration. There are videos, photographs, and sound files. Several hands-on activities and online games and quizzes are included. eThemes Resources on beluga whales, endangered species, and ocean animals are linked.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001041.shtml>

Continent: Antarctica Learn about life in Antarctica including the climate, explorers, animals, geographic features, and current scientific expeditions. Take a virtual tour of this cold continent and view 360-degree images. Includes an eThemes resource on penguins and two eThemes resources on the arctic.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000004.shtml>

Country: Germany These sites about Germany have information on the country's history, regions, and traditions. See a live view from a Webcam, listen to the country's national anthem, learn some basic German words, and follow the instructions for German recipes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the Holocaust.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000909.shtml>

Country: Italy These sites introduce the country of Italy. There is information on Italy's history, culture, art, traditions, cuisine, cars, and more. You can listen to a recording of the National Anthem, take a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel, view an interactive map, or read about the history of pizza. There are several videos that show how to speak basic Italian. Also included is information about what it's like to be a kid in Italy.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000048.shtml>

Country: Taiwan These sites are about Taiwan's culture, geography, and animals. Includes information on Taiwanese food, government, festivals, and historical sites. Includes eThemes resources on China and Asia.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000043.shtml>

Democracy: Citizenship and Community Responsibility These sites provide information about democracy. Learn about origin of democracy, the rights and responsibilities of government and citizens, and democracy process. Ideas for classroom activities, images, video clips, and audios are included. There are links to eThemes Resources on U.S. Presidents, Elections for Elementary Students, Elections for Upper Grades, Government: Democratic and Communist, and Jury Duty. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000020.shtml>

Fashion and Costume Design These sites are about fashion and costume design. Learn about fashion through history, see fashion design sketches, and read how they are made. Also discussed are careers in fashion and costume design. There is a classroom activity about making fashion sketches.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001052.shtml>

Health: Sleep and Dreams This resource contains sites about sleep and dreams. Discover the different stages of sleep and the importance of sleep. Includes reasons for dreaming, symbols found in dreams, and nightmares. There are also activities and experiments to record and interpret dreams.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001027.shtml>

Historic Documents: U.S. Constitution These sites cover the history of the Constitution of the United States. Includes information about the Constitution's signers and the Articles of Confederation, a document that some consider the original constitution. Classroom activity ideas are included. There are links to eThemes Resources on the branches of government and the Bill of Rights. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000026.shtml>

Holiday: Columbus Day Learn about explorer Christopher Columbus and his four voyages to the New World. Find out what group of people discovered this land before him. Includes biographies, timelines, maps, and information about the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. There are also craft and activity ideas for celebrating this holiday.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001173.shtml>

Iditarod Learn more about the Iditarod Dog Sled race in Alaska. Read about the history, teams, dogs, and much more. Some sites offer ideas for classroom activities. Includes a link to eThemes resources on Alaska.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000042.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Library Skills: Copyright Laws Learn about copyright law and the rules regarding the use of images, music, movies, text, software, and more. Find out if your use of copyrighted material falls under the Fair Use policy. Try the online calculator to determine if a work is in the public domain. Includes student activities. There is a link to eThemes Resource on Cyberethics: Downloading Music from the Internet.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000742.shtml>

Literature: "Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume These sites are about the book "Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume. There are book project ideas, review questions, author biographies, book reviews, and an online Jeopardy game. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on turtles.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001130.shtml>

Local Government: Mayor These sites list the duties of mayors for different cities. Includes information about having a classroom election. There are voter registration cards, ballots, graphic organizers, and more.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001225.shtml>

Microbes: Protozoa Learn about many different types of protozoa and their life cycles. Includes many microscopic images and some videos. Find out what types of diseases can be caused by these microbes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the scientific method.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001085.shtml>

Seasons These websites are about the earth's seasons and why they occur. Learn about weather conditions, why seasons change, and effects of seasons on living things. There are animations, worksheets, interactive quizzes, a webquest, and lesson plans. One site allows you to send seasonal e-Cards to your friends. Includes links to eThemes Resources on winter, spring, summer, and autumn.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001373.shtml>

Seasons: Winter These sites include activities, games, and information about winter. There are interactive games in which you can build a snowman or make a snowflake. There is information about winter sports and how animals deal with the winter cold. Included are links to eThemes resources on snowflakes and frost, seasons, and various winter holidays.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001371.shtml>

Shakespeare: "Hamlet" These sites have sample questions and essay ideas about this tragedy by William Shakespeare. Read the entire play online. There are lesson plans and classroom activity ideas for teachers. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Shakespeare's Life and Times and Drama for Students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000726.shtml>

Solar System: Earth's Atmosphere These sites are about the Earth's atmosphere and its layers. See pictures, diagrams, and videos, and then try the interactive quizzes. Includes links to an eThemes Resource on the ozone layer and greenhouse effect.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000595.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Reading Comprehension Strategies These sites offer various strategies to improve reading comprehension for students at all grade levels. Includes many online stories and questions to test reading comprehension. There is a reading comprehension inventory and research articles on this topic. Many pages can be printed out and used in the classroom. Some of the tips include KWL charts, story maps, word maps, and story pyramids. There are also links to eThemes Resources on graphic organizers, guided reading, and literature circles.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000737.shtml>

Westward Expansion: California Gold Rush Read about the discovery of gold in California and how this lured many gold seekers west. Learn about the routes they traveled, how they mined the gold, and the difficulties of life in a mining camp. Includes first-hand accounts, historic drawings, audios, virtual tours, maps, timelines, and a lesson plan. There are links to eThemes Resources on the Oregon Trail and Trails West.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000914.shtml>