

In this feed...

TIPS - The Editor's Desk (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

Student Technology Leadership Program (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

Internet Safety (Leanna Prater)

Announcements (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

KET EncycloMedia (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

Intelligent Classrooms (Diana Hendrix, DTRT)

Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

The Video-Linked Classroom (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

...and the Research Says (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

CyberSchool (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

...a service of [The Point](#) - a classroom blogspace from [fcps.net](#)



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 7, #3 (November 2007)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 11/2/2007

TIPS - the Technology Office newsletter - moved to a blog feed in the fall of 2005, delivering ideas and instructional support for Fayette County teachers through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers in the Office of Instructional Technology. For a look at this e-zine before the fall of 2005, look to <http://teach.fcps.net/tips/>.

Home
Contacts
Public Blogs

TIPS - The Editor's Desk

Brief musings on the implementation of technology integration in Fayette County Schools...from the Office of Instructional Technology



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Tuesday, October 30, 2007 11:45 PM: How many 0's and 1's does it take to make a Slushy?



The slushy was born from the principle that frozen water can be best consumed in small bits. Although it retains the general characteristics of ice - it's cold, and tastes nicely with a bit of flavoring and sugar - it is in small enough pieces that it settles comfortably into a cup, and slips easily through a straw.

Of course, ice, in its essence, is neither large (as cubes) nor small (as slush), but solid and clear. So it is with images and sounds....they are smooth and continuous, not in pieces. But that's so terribly inconvenient when it comes to moving images and sounds across space and time. Thomas Edison discovered that, in fact, we can't really tell the difference between a series of chunked imagery (the frames of a film) and the motion they portray. Thus, he could make a kinetoscope movie, move it across great distances, and, when played back, allow someone to witness an event for which they were not present.

Now, in the digital age, we've taken that chunking further - we've broken the images down into digits, 0's and 1's. Watching a new high-definition television, it's clear that the small bits work even better than a film's big chunks. And, as the slushy illustrates, small bits are easy to contain, and, most importantly, are also very easy to put through a straw.

Tuesday, the Kentucky Education Cabinet, and several other cooperating agencies, announced the near-completion of the [Kentucky Education Network](#), a huge expansion of the computer network for education in Kentucky. On hand for this celebration were the presidents of both of Kentucky's flagship universities, much of the educational leadership of the state...and three 5th graders from Ashland Elementary School in Fayette County. They all talked about how wonderful it is that this increased capacity is making things move faster. Faster means more, higher, and better, in much the same way that a Blue Ray disk is better than one of Mr. Edison's Kinetoscope movies.

But the very fact that this meeting was taking place in 6 locations at once - that the students did not need to leave Ashland to talk with David Couch, the Director of the Office of Educational Technology in Frankfort as he sat at Frankfort High School - means that faster doesn't just mean better. It means that things can happen which couldn't happen before. Speed doesn't just improve, it makes things possible. Speed connects people, in real time, to each other.

But no matter how big the straw, no matter how fast things move, it is the small bits which make it possible. A straw can be as big as the cup it's sitting in, but that ice will not move through it unless, in fact, it's a slushy. Of course, 0's and 1's are *not* real life, but they're close enough to it that we are content to live with the difference, since the results connect us across vast distances in ways impossible to imagine even a few years ago.

A slushy isn't really ice, but in many ways its better - more colorful, and tastier!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=10067>



Student Technology Leadership Program

A discussion of STLP activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools.



...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Monday, October 29, 2007 11:20 PM: November 8 - STLP Fall Showcase



STLP Fall Showcase
University of Kentucky Ballroom
Thursday, November 8, 2007
Open to the Public: 11:00 - 1:00

Support your favorite STLP group - or support them all! Please join us at the STLP Fall Showcase where 40 schools will be attending from 10 school districts to compete in Showcase or Presenter categories. The school groups are competing to earn a spot in the May State Championship with hopes of winning a trip to the [2008 National Educational Computing Conference](#) in San Antonio, Texas.

Also, click to read more about our first [STLP Student Advisory Council Meeting](#). You'll be impressed by what our high school council members had to say!

Reminder: The [STLP web page](#) is being revised. If you can't find something, please let me know.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16314>

Internet Safety

Thursday, November 01, 2007 8:36 AM: New I-Safe Plan Up and Running Smoothly

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of
Leanna Prater

Great News! Stu's Crew is up and running with their i-Safe Implementation Plan. At present, 30 students from Stu's Crew and the Mayors Youth Council are planning their presentations for 6th grade students in middle school. Initial training has been completed and work sessions are being offered at all high schools to allow students to fine tune and polish their presentations. Stu's Crew and MYC (Mayors Youth Council) will be using technology such as the Computer Performance System, rehearsing video clips, and creating a Moodle Site, <http://moodle.pld.fcps.net/>, **Stu's Crew Corner**, to share ideas with each other and with other groups as well. Target dates for their presentations may be in the range of November 12th-December 6th. We'll keep you posted of further developments.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16411>

Announcements

Technology News



...from the desk of
Julie Gaskin,
District TRT

Friday, November 02, 2007 12:57 PM: November Announcements



Money and Prizes Galore!

There are so many announcements that I'm going to give you some highlights and then click to read more about the ones you are interested in - but they're all good!

- \$40,000 that includes \$500 cash for 4 teachers is available through an HP grant. Many schools have just finished writing excellent technology proposals in response to Greg Drake's RFP. You may find that you have most of the work already done! [Click to read more...](#)
- Student Video Contest with the Reel School. Prizes for elementary, middle, and high school groups for the best public service announcement. [Click to read more...](#)
- Win a site license of Tool Factory Podcasting & Digital Media Accessories by developing a lesson plan. [Click to read more...](#)
- Win a mobile digital camera lab or one of 40 additional software and digital camera awards by creating a profile and writing an original lesson plan. [Click to read more...](#)
- Student Photo Contest for students ages 4 to 18. [Click to read more...](#)
- Knowledge Adventure's Schools in Need Competition with a prize value of \$12,000. [Click to read more...](#)

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376>

KET EncycloMedia

Explore resources and community tools for educators -- including exclusive content for members of the Discovery Educator Network (username and password required).

...from the desk of Julie
Gaskin, District TRT

Tuesday, October 09, 2007 11:35 AM: Training



Encyclomedia Training
4:30 - 6:00
November 5 at J.R. Ewan
or
November 14 at IAKSS Annex Computer Lab

Brian Spellman is offering customized training starting with a brief overview of how to use Encyclomedia followed up by individual work time. The idea is for you to have some practical planning time during the workshop so you'll leave with activities you can immediately use in your own classroom. To register, go to the [PD registration page](#) and sign up for one of the following session numbers: T-0831 or T-0832.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18374>

Intelligent Classrooms

Promoting the use of intelligent classroom tools and connecting them to your content.

...from the desk of Diana
Hendrix, DTRT

Monday, October 29, 2007 12:10 PM: Cyber Keys Revised Version

A new version of CyberKeys has been released by the state department for grades K-8. Each school will receive a CD loaded with a copy of the curriculum. The curriculum guide has been aligned with the current ISTE standards. If you are wondering what should my students be able to do at each grade level, check out this manual. It also has a lot of wonderful FREE websites to use for practicing! Your STC will receive a copy very soon.

Email diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us for more information.

Monday, October 29, 2007 12:03 PM: Where Did All the Icons Go?

Have you had Office 2007 Word installed on your machine and are wondering what happened to the icons I used to use? If so take a look at this site:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/HA100744321033.aspx?pid=CH100487431033>

This site allows you to roll over the old icons you loved and tells you where they can be found in Word 2007.

Hope this helps you! If you have further questions please email me at diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16514>

Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County

A discussion of the district roll-out of the [Fayette County Intranet](#) using Microsoft's Sharepoint Services



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Wednesday, October 31, 2007 7:50 AM: The Portfolio

Students cringe, English teachers spend dozens of hours reading, administrators worry...yes, portfolio season is once again upon us! With the advent of word processing - spell and grammar checks, cut/copy/paste, instant formatting - writing has gotten to be a much simpler, powerful process. But there still aren't enough hours in the day, and hanging over the entire process is the issue organizing, saving, and delivering portfolio contributions. It's such a headache that, for years, high schools made portfolio management a part-time teacher position all by itself.

But with word processing comes the wonderful world of 0's and 1's (see [The Editor's Desk](#) for more on that). Things can be stored easily and simply, and delivered seamlessly across time and distance, through the wonderful world of content management. Morton Middle was the first to use content management to support the portfolio process this way, though several other schools have since followed suit.

Here is what you gain:

- Students have access to their work from anywhere - class, lab, library, even home - without having to carry a rough draft, or even a digital storage medium like a thumb drive. around.
- Teachers, likewise, have instant access to any portfolio contribution - no more big bags of papers dragged home each night for grading!
- Portfolio managers have no need to provide file folders and physical storage spaces - management is a breeze!
- Probably as important as anything else, with digital storage, the definition of a "portfolio contribution" can expand to include anything which can be stored digitally - PowerPoints, videos, podcasts, digital art - all can be saved in the folder!



The Digital Portfolio is not new to the college student, and it's beginning to appear in K-12. Content management makes it happen!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=1621>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County

...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Wednesday, October 31, 2007 12:18 AM: Yype! I've been Skyped!

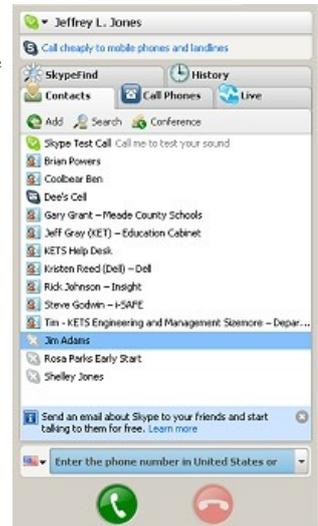
Continuing on our theme of video-linking on the cheap...

Two weeks ago I had a wonderful chat with Xue L Lei, Chinese teacher at Crawford Middle School. She wanted her students to talk to real native speakers - and what better native speakers than Xue's own parents, still living in China! The connection used simple video conferencing tools (in this case Yahoo Messenger), and took place completely in Chinese - no small feat for these beginners! Of course, with the time difference, Xue's parents had to get up at 2:00 a.m. for one of the conferences...not surprisingly, they were pretty drowsy! Although the questions were simple - "How are you," "How old are you," etc. - the students did their best to understand the answers (the parents spoke no English), and were very engaged - asking about a repeat the next day!

Another videoconferencing tool, Skype, came on the scene about four years ago. Based in Luxembourg, it has now become the quality leader in free videoconferencing. Using this tool, members of the technology community in Fayette County have attended meetings from anywhere to anywhere, with great sound and excellent video quality - all for free!

This tool will, in the next month, move into the Fayette education mainstream to support a special needs student. This student is often unable to attend class, since she is very susceptible to infection, but her parents are very determined to keep her connected to school. Enter, Skype! Using this tool, she will be able to participate in lessons, and talk to her teachers and fellow students - all from her home!

Skype also can be used to call phones (though that service carries a nominal fee), and offers a for-pay Enterprise service supporting multiple connections. It's a comer! Ask if you're interested in using this tool!



...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16775>

...and the Research Says

What current research has to say.



...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Wednesday, October 31, 2007 9:06 PM: Robotics as a Means to Increase Achievement Scores



Robotics, such as LEGO, and experiential learning can be used to help students increase achievement scores in science, engineering, and technology (SET). Bradley S. Barker, PhD, an assistant professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and John Ansorge, an experienced producer of interactive educational materials, compared pre and post tests of students involved in an after-school robotics program with students who were not involved in the program. The results revealed that the students in the robotics program had a significant increase in the mean scores on the post test but the control group did not. Isn't it great when learning

is fun!

Barker, B. & Ansorge, J. (2007). Robotics as a Means to Increase Achievement Scores in an Informal Learning Environment. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education* , 229-243.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=20174>

CyberSchool

A list of web activities for the elementary classroom.

...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Sunday, October 14, 2007 1:14 PM: Web Information: Social Studies



CyberSchoolBus

is the United Nations web site for Kids and Teachers.

<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolB>

Math and Social Studies teachers alike will appreciate the [interactive graphs](#) comparing data from different nations about population, economy, health, technology, and environment as well as updated UN news, publications, lesson plans, and daily live and on-demand web casts. Interactive games and quizzes include Pook in the World, Flag Tag, Water Quiz, and others. Qualify for free materials for your classroom by [signing up](#) to review content and test activities for this site.

If you teach young children, explore [Panwapa](#), which means "here on this earth" in the Tshiluba language, a new online world designed by Sesame Workshop to help children, ages 4 to 7, develop skills needed to become global citizens. *Panwapa* consists of an interactive website, www.panwapa.com, a DVD, and print materials that are available in five languages to children around the world—Arabic, English, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish. Some parts require students to create a login and password.



...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=17580>



The contents of this website are intended for the enhancement of instruction only. "It's About Kids"