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...a service of **The Point** - a classroom blogspace from fcps.net



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 7, #5 (January 2008)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 1/3/2008

TIPS - the Technology Office newsletter - is a feed of ideas and instructional support for Fayette County teachers, delivered through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers in the Office of Instructional Technology. See the complete list of archives in <http://teach.fcps.net/tips/>.

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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

Thursday, January 03, 2008 10:59 AM: Professional Development Opportunities

Welcome to the New Year!

For all of you who have made it your New Year's Resolution to improve your practice...take a look at these professional development opportunities!

The New Labs in the Annex, IAKSS

In addition to regular Office Suite (Mark DiMascio) and Web page (Maggie Whittington) trainings in the new Labs, here are a few new offerings. To register, go to the [PD Online Menu](#).

- **Introduction to Fayette's I-School (Moodle):** Learn about this "BlackBoard-like" virtual classroom environment which supports student discussion, group/project learning, document sharing, Wikis and other development tools, class calendars, and a wide range of other capabilities - all available 24/7/365 through the Web! Attendees will be able to participate in an existing online "class," and will be given their own class to develop. Learn how to extend your classroom through space and time using this exciting tool!
 - o Thursday, January 24th, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (1.5 PD credit hours)
 - o Wednesday, January 30th, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (1.5 PD credit hours)
- **Introduction to Videoconferencing:** Learn how you and your students can connect in real time to museums, experts, universities...and each other! Videoconferencing is the "next best thing to being there" - you can see, hear, and share with anyone, anywhere on the globe! This session will look at where you can find content providers and experiences, how you can design and broadcast your own project, and how to use the equipment itself.
 - o Wednesday, January 23th, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (1.5 PD credit hours)

e-Learning Kentucky - Spring '08 Online PD (part of Kentucky Virtual Schools, Kentucky Department of Education)

Course Dates: January 16 - March 5

Registration: Extended to January 10 ([Online registration and course listing...](#)for more information, contact elearningkyinquiry@education.ky.gov or toll free 1-866-432-0008, extension 4541)

Courses are free, and eligible for 6 or 12 or 24 hours EILA or PD Credit. Except as noted below, all online courses are appropriate for P-12 teachers and administrators.

Book Studies: The World Is Flat (cost of book additional)

Administrators & Support Personnel: Courses include "Library Media Programs and Services", "Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence & Child Abuse: Awareness & Intervention," "Safeguarding the Wired School House."

Mathematics: Courses include "Early Childhood Math & Technology" (Pre-K-2 Teachers), "Getting Ready for Algebra Using Virtual Manipulatives," "Using Patterns to Develop Algebraic Thinking," "Using Real Data in the Math Classroom" (6-12 Teachers).

Diverse Learners: Courses include "Differentiating Instruction to Accommodate Learning Styles," "Special Students in the Regular Classrooms"

English Language Arts: Courses include "Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas," "Making the Most of Adolescent Literature" (grades 6-12 teachers), "Reading First" (5 levels), "The Connected Writer: Using Blogs and Online Collaborative Tools to Enhance Student Writing" (grades 4-12 teachers).

English Language Learners: Courses include "Instructional Approaches for Teachers of ELL," "The Connected Writer: Using Blogs and Online Collaborative Tools to Enhance Student Writing" (grades 4-12 teachers).

Science: Courses include "Using Observable Phenomena to make Sense of the Earth, Moon, and Sun" (grades K-8 Teachers).

Technology: Courses include "Best Practices in the Digital Age: More Than Just a PowerPoint," "Designing a Virtual Field Trip," "Finding the Best Educational Resources on the Web," "Safeguarding the Wired School House," "Using KET EncycloMedia."

...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

Monday, December 17, 2007 9:52 AM: STEM Fair - Registration Due



Science Technology Engineering & Math Fair

Registration Deadline: January 11, 2008



Julie Gaskin,
District TRT

STEM Fair
Saturday, March 15, 2008
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Public Hours: 9:00 - 11:00

Just a reminder to our STLP Coordinators that all schools will want to register a Showcase for the STEM Fair. Also, be sure to check out the other opportunities in Digital Art, Interactive Content, Presentations, and Video. Please register by January 11. Check out the STEM website for more information:
<http://teach.fcps.net/stem/Default.htm>

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

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of
Leanna Prater

Monday, December 10, 2007 9:20 AM: Middle School Students + I-safe Presentations = Awesome!!!

☺ **Students at Crawford, Beaumont, Edith J. Hayes and Tates Creek Middle have raved about the I-Safe Presentations given by Stu's Crew and the Mayors Youth Council. Skits, raps, t-shirts with Logos , PowerPoint Jeopardy games, and jingles have been presented to make students aware of safety issues when using the Internet. Middle school students were engaged in discussions, and thought-provoking ideas were presented. Instruction was a two way street with both the high school students learning ways to instruct and the middle school students receiving the best instruction possible from their peers. This has become an awesome project for both age groups. Presentations will continue after winter break; stay tuned to see when your school will be featured.** ☺

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

Fayette's iSchool - The blog for FCPS's Moodle Project

Watch this space for updates and announcements connected to this powerful resource!

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

Thursday, January 03, 2008 2:26 PM: Ready for Prime Time!

With new hardware, and a new design, [Fayette's i-School](#) (Moodle), is ready for full use!



- **Join us for trainings in January!** Two dates are currently available, with more coming (depending on demand). Look to the [Professional Development Online Menu](#) for the dates it will be offered, and to sign up.
- **Ask for your classroom!** You can get a virtual presence for the asking. Support your students' learning virtually, with 24/7/365 availability of collaborative tools, class documents, discussions, and a whole lot more!
- **Let us train your school!** We'll come to you and help you/your department/your grade/your whole school get going!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=15975>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County



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

Thursday, January 03, 2008 1:32 PM: Connect to the Future!

With new hardware, [training this month](#), and full support through this office and the Commonwealth Office of Technology/Frankfort, videoconference connections are simple, powerful, and instructional! Look at how to leverage this exciting capability! All of the following resources are available through the [Videoconferencing and Webcasting Center](#), SharePoint (requires Fayette County login).

- **Event Calendar:** Keep track of what Fayette County teachers and students are doing! All videoconference events, old and pending are listed on the Event Calendar. Upcoming events include:
 - Smithsonian Art Institute (Ashland Elementary, 1/10/2008 11:15 AM),
 - NASA SpaceBots (Jennifer Humble/PLD, 2/12/2008 9:30 AM),
 - UK BIG BLUE Inflatable Wing Project(Jennifer Humble/PLD, 2/27/2008 10:30 AM),
 - Stand Up, Speak Out, Lend a Hand (BSHS, 3/4/2008 10:00 AM)
- **How-To's and Equipment Lists:** Look in the "Support Docs" library for a host of information on how to set up and connect videoconferences, as well as lists of equipment available for check-out. Look to the "Equipment and Events Photos" picture library for pictures of the hardware, and pictures from events!
- **Equipment Reservation:** Reserving videoconference equipment is *completely self-service*: click on any of the videoconference hardware reservation calendars to reserve them. You will be contacted by someone who will help you make your project or event happen!

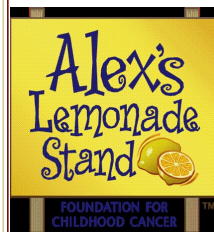
...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16775>

Announcements

Technology News

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

Monday, December 17, 2007 9:38 AM: Video Conference: Alex's Lemonade Stand 2008



April 8 - April 24, 2008

Kids helping Kids Make a Difference! In celebration of Global Youth Services Day, join other schools across the country as they host lemonade stands to raise money for pediatric cancer research and participate in other related projects. Schools will collaborate with each other through a blog, a special "kick off" videoconference spirit rally and closing project collage videoconference event.

Read more at www.magpi.net/programs/alexlemonade.html and decide if you would like to participate in the video conference or webstream. Please contact [Jeff Jones](#) if you are interested in participating.

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

Podcasting on The Point

Use this blog to post media (sound, video, etc.). Be sure to use the scaffold!

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Monday, December 17, 2007 2:27 PM: "Podsafe" music sites

"Podsafe" is a term for music that can be legally used in a podcast and freely distributed online for others to download. According to Tony Vincent of LearningInHand, <http://learninginhand.com/podcasting/create.html>, one could spend hours looking online for the right music. Here are sites he recommends for podsafe music:

- [The Free Sound Project](#)
- [SoundSnap](#)
- [Flash Kit - Sound FX](#)
- [Podcast Bumper Music](#)
- [fOUR bEES Free Media](#)
- [Podsafe Audio](#)
- [Common Content: Catalog](#)
- [ACIDplanet](#) offers a free 8-pack of loops each Friday ([ACID XPress](#), is a free ten-track mixing and composing application. These provide free content; new "loops" (sound samples optimized for use in music software) and complete ACID projects are available weekly on their [8packs](#) page.)

If you use Audacity, this program does not have the capacity to create musical compositions. So, you must import a file from one of the above sites, if you wish for your podcast to have music. If you are using a MAC, you can use Garage Band to create tracks and after combining them, you can add the voices to create your podcast.

Tony Vincent and his students have a site called [Radio WillowWeb](#). Give it a listen for some tips for your podcasting needs. He is a great teacher and his students are really involved.

As always if you need assistance, I will be glad to help.

Rosemary McFarland
District TRT Fayette Co.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=2267>

Student Technology Leadership Program

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



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

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 3:22 PM: Way to Go Bulldogs!

Paul Laurance Dunbar STLP Kids



PLD STLP kids took their time during finals to visit and deliver gifts to the children who are in the UK Children's Hospital. The PLD FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) donated \$300 to buy gifts. The STLP raised the rest by setting up a table in the cafeteria and requesting donations during lunches. The STLP group took an afternoon and shopped and

purchased the presents. The STLP, Future Educators of America, and Anime Club took an evening and wrapped the presents. On Dec 17th, 5 STLP members along with 2 parents chaperones, Mr. Morris and Mr. Adams delivered the gifts. These students are building an outgrowth of PLD STLP called DDFO Dunbar Doing for Others. DDFO will be reaching across club lines to involve as many Dunbar students as possible in reaching out to community organizations. Well done PLD STLP!



💡 If you would like to have your students featured in TIPS, please submit images and a description to [Julie Gaskin](#). We would love to know more about our wonderful leaders!

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

...and the Research Says

What current research has to say.

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

Saturday, December 22, 2007 2:12 PM: Supporting Reading Comprehension with an Electronic Pop-up Dictionary



Supporting Social Studies Reading Comprehension with an Electronic Pop-up Dictionary

Struggling readers in middle school who read social studies text with an electronic pop-up dictionary scored significantly better on a comprehension test than other struggling readers who read the same text via hard copy or

electronically without a pop-up dictionary. The comprehension test consisted of multiple choice questions about the main idea and fill-in-the-blank cloze questions.

Sara Winstead Fry is an assistant professor of education at Bucknell University. Ross Gosky is an assistant professor in the Mathematical Sciences Department at Appalachian State University.

Fry, S. W., & Gosky, R. (2007). Supporting Social Studies Reading Comprehension with an Electronic Pop-up Dictionary. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, 127-139.

...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

Saturday, December 22, 2007 3:45 PM: Web Activity: Social Studies



Glacier Bay
Grades 4-7

<http://www.teamtreks.com/>

The Teamtreks website takes students to Glacier Bay, Alaska, where they practice essential real-life skills: gathering information, applying knowledge, analyzing situations, and making decisions.

To reach their destination, students need to succeed in:

- Leadership, teamwork & decision-making.
- Map-Reading & navigation
- Reading comprehension & mathematics
- Life sciences & history

Please remind students to use a fictitious login.

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

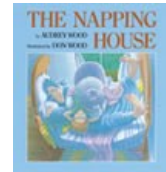
Author's / Illustrator's Corner

A web connection to children's authors and illustrators.
...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 1:13 PM: Audrey and Don Wood



Author and illustrator Audrey and Don Wood, offer [The Audrey Wood Clubhouse](#) where you can read their biographies, find coloring pages, read Tips and Tricks for Writers, and learn secrets about their books. I especially enjoyed reading about their son, Bruce Robert Wood, and his love of 3-D art. Website: <http://www.audreywood.com>



...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18372>

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

Monday, December 17, 2007 11:07 AM: Science: Light



In Fayette County, grade 4 students will represent the path of light as it interacts with a variety of surfaces (reflecting, refracting, absorbing). (SC-04-4.6.4) You may find the following [KET EncycloMedia](#) video helpful when introducing this topic.

Video: [Real World Science: Light](#) (17:45)

This video has 10 segments which can be viewed individually or continuously. The segments cover:

1. Light: A Visible Form of Energy (02:15)
2. Properties of Light Waves (01:10)
3. The Electromagnetic Spectrum (00:59)
4. A Review of Light (00:34)
5. Characteristics of Light Rays (02:20)
6. A Review of Light Rays (00:47)
7. Light Reflection: Dependent on Surface (01:16)
8. Refraction: The Bending of Light Rays (01:47)
9. The Science of Light in the Real World (03:34)
10. An Experiment With Light: An Inside Look at Show Business (01:54)

This video also includes closed captioning, a teacher's guide, an online quiz, and a listing of the Kentucky Standards associated with this video.

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



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

