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



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 7, #8 (April 2008)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 4/7/2008

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, March 27, 2008 9:20 AM: Do they really do this stuff "out there?"

This note will be a bit more personal than is my normal habit. In the last few weeks, my daughter got a new job. After 12 years of working in the food industry as everything from a waitress to a restaurant general manager, her new responsibilities combine almost everything she's interested in (fine dining, wine, eco-friendly business practices) with her skill set (French, a sophisticated pallet, and an intensely gregarious personality). She's very excited, and as her father, I am too.

She spent the first two weeks shadowing the person she'll be replacing, and going to the offices of her new company for some training in their practices. She was informed that her new responsibilities required....

- A personal laptop,
- An electronic appointments calendar,
- Availability and comfort with the Microsoft Office suite,
- Access to broadband at home,
- Wifi capabilities,
- Ability to use VPN for remote access,
- Online content management...

...and, though not required, my "Congratulations!" gift of a new auto GPS system is proving to be quite pivotal as well.

If you're reading the above, and you do not have or do anything on that list, that's not a problem. Although I cannot get through my working day without my Outlook electronic calendar, my wife is still carrying around her Franklin Planner, and it serves her quite well. Lots of us don't pay for cable, and there are even folks out there without TVs. As adults, we all make choices about how we manage our lives. Those choices are personal, and we have no problem negotiating the compromises our decisions imply.

But an informed decision about personal and professional practice is a very long way from an uninformed decision springing from limited skillsets and options. As educators, our responsibilities include preparing our students for those decisions, by making sure they are, in fact, informed. But even more important, we need to prepare our students so that, when they find themselves facing a professional opportunity, their ability to take advantage of that opportunity isn't hamstrung by the fact that they're not prepared...that the professional decisions *we make as teachers* do not impact their options.

As a math teacher, I always had the obligatory "Where will I use this?" poster on my classroom bulletin board. It listed all of the professions (and their projected salaries, which were high) which leveraged mathematics. But the list of jobs which will require students to use at least some of the things on the above list *would include all jobs!*

If you're a math teacher, and you're not teaching technology tools in the pursuit of mathematics, will that matter? If you're a teacher of writing, and your student's access, editing, and teacher feedback aren't happening electronically, will anyone care? The answer is an emphatic yes, and the "anyone" will be our students' future employers. My daughter has never been that excited about computer-driven tools, but she had the good fortune of being born into a household which allowed her to make informed decisions about such, and through which she was still prepared when a new employer had other ideas. Thankfully, when she applied, she could say, "I can do these things." Take a moment to look around your classroom...how many of your charges are looking for *you* to provide that exposure and preparation? *That's* the face of the "digital divide!"

...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, April 07, 2008 9:48 AM: STEM Fair 2008 - A Wonderful Success!



STEM Fair 2008 was a wonderful success! Please check the [STEM website](#) for more information and a [list of winners](#), to see [the student created digital art](#), and to [watch the winning student videos](#).



Highlights

- Hundreds of students
- 62 showcases
- 5 presentations
- 2 video conferences with NASA
- Digital art
- Videos



Thanks to:

- Jim Adams and the PLD student crew who provided technical support
- Volunteer judges
- Community partners
- Supporting vendors

- Interactive content
- And more!

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

The Video-Linked Classroom

Monday, April 07, 2008 2:54 PM: Breaking Barriers: Remembering The All American Girls Professional Baseball

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County
...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Title 9 celebrates its 35th anniversary this year - the legislation that brought support for girls sports into the forefront! Look at this MAGPI offering for 9-12 students - appropriate for social studies, health/PE, even athletic teams! Here's MAGPI's announcement for this. As always, register, and use the newly-updated [Videoconference Event Calendar entry form](#) on SharePoint to schedule your event and request equipment!
Look to the calendar for new event announcements - our latest is for a conference between author Chris Crutcher and PLD!

MAGPI is very pleased to partner with Methacton High School to offer this new program! This year marks the 35th anniversary of Title IX. Meet two of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, young ladies of the 19th century who played the game long before they even had the right to vote. Each lady teaches an important lesson in the story of gals who gave their all so that boys and girls can play side-by-side today. When the All American Girls Professional Baseball League opened in the spring of 1943, the league received respectable reviews, and by the 1952 season audiences were highly impressed with the playing of the young women.



Women have played baseball since the late 1800s, long before the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920 giving them the right to vote. In 1943, women continued breaking barriers in sports when the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) was formed to keep baseball alive when many major league players were fighting in World War II. In 1943, Phillip Wrigley announced formation of the AAGPBL with four teams from the Midwest. By 1948, the AAGPBL had grown in popularity to 10 teams and one million fans. From 1943 to 1954, the AAGPBL was comprised of nearly 600 players from the United States, Canada and Cuba. Find out how two women from different backgrounds transformed their love of sports to making their dream come true.

Registration/More Information: <http://www.magpi.net/programs/baseball.html>

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

Announcements

Monday, April 07, 2008 3:13 PM: TIS Conference: Call for Presenters

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

Call for Presenters

Presentation proposal due Tuesday, April 15, 2008.



Conference: June 5 and June 6, 2008

The [Technology Integration Specialist \(TIS\) Conference](#) (formerly TEC Conference) will primarily focus on supporting integration specialists (TIS's, TRT's). We will provide an opportunity and a forum for such specialists to meet and practice what good technology classroom integration looks like, and see and use new tools. Our conference is at Edythe J. Hayes Middle School. Click here to reach the [TIS Conference website](#). Please register (button, upper right) and then click "Apply to Present" (button on left).

Monday, April 07, 2008 10:59 AM: KET PD: Lights! Camera! Action!



Lights! Camera! Action!

PD Provider: KET
Dates: July 15 or July 16, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Cost: \$50 (Includes lunch and refreshments)

Choose from over a dozen topics from video production to using Second Life's online educational resources. Sign up soon to reserve your spot!

Monday, April 07, 2008 11:46 AM: Some Students Qualify for Free Text Reader



[Bookshare.org](#) and Don Johnston have announced a partnership to provide qualified print disabled students with a free text reader to access electronic books from the Bookshare.org library. Beginning at the start of the 2008-09 school year, qualified students will have the opportunity to use Don Johnston's Read: OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition text reader (Windows Version) to access more than 36,000 books, magazines and newspapers in the Bookshare.org library. Beginning at the start of the 2008-09 school year, qualified students will have the opportunity to use Don Johnston's Read: OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition text reader (Windows Version) to access more than 36,000 books,

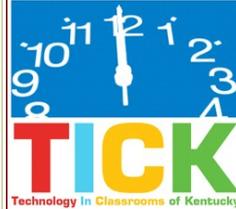
magazines and newspapers in the Bookshare.org library. [Click here to read more.](#)

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

CyberSchool

A list of web activities for the elementary classroom.
...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Monday, April 07, 2008 12:39 PM: Teacher Resource: Technology in Classrooms of Kentucky



TICK is a website provided by Murray State University to assist teachers in accessing resources that are tied to the Technology Program of Studies as well as Kentucky Core Content and Technology Proficiency Indicators. You can access resources submitted by other teachers and you can win prizes by submitting your own. Note: You won't need to create a login until you want to submit your own resources.

Resources include:

- Units of Study
- Lesson Plans
- Interactive Activities
- PowerPoints
- Quizzes
- Much More

Monday, April 07, 2008 2:19 PM: Teacher Resource: Google Earth Lessons



Google Earth Lessons is a free resource to give teachers ideas for using [Google Earth](#) in their classrooms. The "How-To" section can help you learn how to better use Google Earth and it includes video tutorials. The "Search" button can be accessed by clicking on the "Lessons" tab.

This appears to be a new resource with room to grow. I was frustrated by the lack of an advanced search tool and the "Courses" tab took me to a Moodle course repository that appears to still be empty - or I did something wrong! It does look like a good idea. If you are interested in Google Earth, it may be of some help - or maybe you can help this resource grow.

Note: [Google Earth is a free download.](#)

...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"