...the feed...

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

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 8, #4 (December 2008)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 12/5/2008

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/.

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

Monday, December 01, 2008 4:23 PM: Subscription

Publisher's Clearinghouse used to be the big thing. Its visibility through the sweepstakes was so huge that it provided many of the magazines it carried most of its subscription business. I can still remember when the mailing hit the house. I was always amazed at the number and variety of magazines. "You mean there are enough people into macrame to have a whole monthly magazine for it? Whoa!"

Of course, even discounted, magazine subscriptions were never that cheap. And, even more importantly, I was always optimimstic as to how much I would attend to magazine reading. Just like the owner of the Jeep who is just sure he'll go 4-wheeling...next year...I was much more in love with the *idea* of Sail magazine than I was with keeping up with the world of sailboat racing and cruising. (Then there was the whole "I live in a land-locked state" thing, too!)

The word "subscription" means something completely different in the world of online blogs. Blog entries are usually time-sensitive - they often represent the musings of someone on something currently important or interesting. Some blogs are updated very regularly, whereas others are updated only sporadically, so managing all of these interests and potential readings can be a little intimidating.

Enter subscription! Subscription (also called RSS, XML, or news feeds) in the virtual world of online blogs is a lot different than magazine subscription. RSS subscriptions are managed by your browser (or Outlook, if you'd prefer). Think of Internet Explorer as being one big Publisher's Clearing House, except that it manages subscribing and unsubscribing, checking for updates, displaying synopses...all for free!

Look for this symbol: . You can see one at the right of this blog entry. Clicking it opens the RSS subscription page. It'll ask you if you want to subscribe. If you don't click that, you can just leave the page, and nothing will happen. If you do, then you'll be subscribed...it's that easy!

Here are the full instructions. I've used Jamie Burch's new blog on videoconferencing opportunities as an example. (This is one you *should* subscribe to!)

After clicking the subscription icon (**1**), you'll go to a page displaying the feed. Click the "Subscribe to this feed" link (**2**) to subscribe. You'll be given the ability of creating a folder, and changing the feed's name, before you save by clicking "Subscribe" (**3**). To see all feeds you've subscribed to, click the "Favorites Center" at upper left in your browser (**4**). You'll get a list of all the feeds you've subscribed to (**5**)...clicking on one takes you there. On the subscription display page, you have search and sort options (**6**). and all new/unread blog entries are marked in yellow.

...all we need is a million-dollar sweepstakes, and life would be perfect!

...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, November 17, 2008 8:05 AM: Fall Showcase Winners!

STLP Fall Showcase
University of Kentucky
November 13, 2008

We are very proud of all of our Student Technology Leaders who participated in this year's STLP Fall Showcase. Those moving to the state competition in May include:

- Julius Marks Elementary: JME-TV Presents: Faces From Other Places

- Bryan Station High School: Dai ex Macheino
- Bryan Station High School: Solar Power
- Bryan Station High School: Übergeek Video
- Eastside Campus of Faytte Technical: Robotics
- Eastside Campus of Fayette Technical: The Society of Automotive Technicians
- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School: Red + Black = GREEN: Bulldogs Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Click here to see more images. Way to go to everyone!

💡If you are reading this in TIPS, click the link below to reach the original blog location so you can see the comments that have been added and post your own.

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

Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations

Upcoming video conferencing events, PD's and collaborations from CILC, MAGPI and more.
...from the desk of Jamie Burch, District TRT

Monday, December 01, 2008 10:18 AM: Content Provider Programs

CILC
Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration

Content Provider Programs:

Poetry Writing Made Easy with 11 Year old Poet Adora - by Adora Svitak--(Optimal Path Inc)
Marketing Description:
In Writing Dynamic: Poetry internationally renowned child author Adora Svitak uses images and fun examples to introduce students to the key concepts they need to understand in order to appreciate, evaluate, and create poetry. Adora fie...
Availability: By Request/On Demand ONLY
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Public Library: Library Patrons

Six Traits of Writing --Convention Made Easy With Adora - by Adora Svitak--(Optimal Path Inc)
The 6 Traits of good is a effective and practical way to learn and use a common language to refer to characteristics of writing as well as create a common vision of what 'good' writing looks like. Adora will use the 6 Traits model to demonstrate how to apply t...
Availability: By Request/On Demand ONLY
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Public Library: Library Patrons

State Writing Test Prompt Made Easy With Adora - by Adora Svitak--(Optimal Path Inc)
This is a customized program. Adora will design each session base on the specific request from each state and classroom teacher.
Availability: By Request/On Demand ONLY
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Public Library: Library Patrons

Meet The Medieval King: Afred The Great - Hammer of the Vikings - by The Sheffield Museum of Rural Life (Canada)
Bring one of history's most interesting monarchs into your classroom to discuss medieval kingship with you and your students. King Alfred fought back from defeat to regain his kingdom from the Vikings, and he worked tirelessly to revitalize culture and learnin...
Availability: By Request/On Demand ONLY
Audience: Education: Pre-K Students, Kindergarten, Grade(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Public Library: Library Patrons

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Monday, December 01, 2008 10:19 AM: Collaborations

CILC
Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration

Collaborations:

Weather around the United States
We are currently recording weather from cities my students picked from a map. The following are the cities- Roswell, New Mexico, Phenix City, Alabama, Tombstone, Arizona, Troy, Alabama, Beaver, Utah, Richwood, West Virginia, and Union City, Tennessee. If the...
Status: Seeking Partners
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 3

Sky Science Grade 6
Looking for collaboration on any project for grade 6 sky science.
Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Education: Grade(s): 6

[Math 6 collaboration](#)
Looking for a school interested in doing any collaboration for a math 6 class.
Status: Seeking Partners
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 6

[Outsiders Discussion](#)
I have a lower-level 7th/8th grade reading class that is just beginning to read the Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. We are looking for another class to have a book discussion with at the conclusion of the book. We would like to prepare something to present and quest...
Status: Seeking Partners
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 7, 8, 9

[INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS FROM MEXICO](#)
I'm looking for schools or institutions that would like to share activities, topics or any other educational related areas with our students in Mexico. We can share culture, history or any interesr to you so your students can share with our students here in Mexico.
Status: Seeking Partners
Audience: Education: K-12 Educator, Business/Community: Community Member, Government Agency

...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=33972

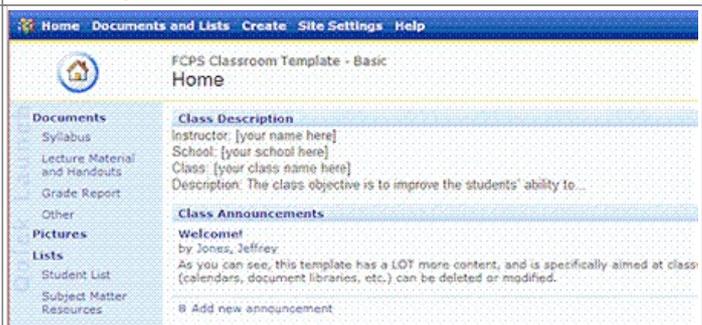|	
The Virtual Elementary Classroom A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom. *...from the desk of Jamie Burch, District TRT*	**Monday, November 24, 2008 10:43 AM: Connecting STLP Students Virtually with iSchool** Billy Moberley, STLP Coordinator at James Lane Allen Elementary School has found a way for his fifty plus STLP students to keep in contact when they are not meeting face to face. He has created an iSchool course that provides the students with information about upcoming STLP events, activities to focus on before the next meeting and even a couple of Voki's to catch their interest. (www.voki.com) Mr. Moberley is creating groups within his iSchool course so that students can focus on one particular topic. Some of those topics include Podcasting, Lego Robotics, PowerPoints and suggestions of future groups. What great way to keep the connections going outside of the traditional face to face meetings. Now you can have STLP 24/7. Great job! *...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=28445*
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*	**Monday, November 17, 2008 10:25 PM: Templates in SharePoint** As a content management system, SharePoint provides for instant "office creation" with templates. Think of it as a "modular office building" - with one phonecall or email, and in just a few seconds, we can create you an office space which includes a main office with calendar, several file cabinets, a meeting room, and a bulletin board for announcements and communications. That's a template. We have several templates available in SharePoint (view full interactive versions linked from SharePoint's [Feedback/Help](#) space)... **FCPS Team Template:** This is your basic modular office, and serves as a good starting point for most simple work scenarios **FCPS Class Template:** This template includes several items appropriate for classroom management. *It is included here as an example...*use [Fayette's iSchool](#) for online course support.

Tech Support Template: This template can serve as a complete technical support home page, with a variety of service and issue tracking.	
Student Storage/Portfolio Template: This collection of pages can serve to deliver individual document libraries for use as a portfolio space, or general student file storage. Doing this through SharePoint simplifies the design for teacher access and use.	
Page-Driven Template: This simple tabbed space can serve to deliver a lot of storage and interactivity in a simple tabbed format.	

But the true beauty of flexible content management is that we can, quickly and easily, design a new template to your own specifications, using any of the above as a starting point, or something else altogether. For more complex support or interactive spaces, templates can be purchased through a network of third party vendors.

Let us know your needs!

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

| **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 | **Monday, December 01, 2008 7:16 AM: Fayette's iSchool Provides Interactive Service for Seniors**

Every year, near the end of October, Henry Clay sponsors an event at Heritage Hall. This **College Fair** is open to any high school student in Fayette County, and includes representatives from over 100 colleges and universities in the United States. This year, at the request of Henry Clay counselors Paula Wheeler and Bonnie Barnes (working with a general concept developed by Bryan Station's Sabina Massey), iSchool has extended this service virtually. The iSchool space **The Henry Clay University Mall** provides an interactive area in support of each college and university represented at the College Fair. There, students can ask questions, and the university recruitment officers can answer them in a location open to any high school student in Fayette County.

All five high schools have shown interest in this concept, and will be disseminating login access information to the University Mall over the next weeks.

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

| **Video Hints and Helps**

Tools, resources, and ideas in support of the teacher/student videographer
...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin | **Tuesday, November 25, 2008 3:47 PM: The Canon FS100/FS200 Flash Memory Camcorder**

This camcorder seems to be one of the leaders in current camcorder technology for educational use...purely from a spec standpoint. I know a bunch of STLP coordinators in the district are buying them. Let us know what you find!

Here are the advantages of this camcorder...

• **Flash memory.** This has several advantages:
   ○ No moving parts, increasing dependability.
   ○ Increased battery life (an offshoot of no moving parts).
   ○ Reduced weight.
   ○ You can add to the memory by purchasing larger or additional memory cards, which can be used |

over and over indefinitely without failure or loss of quality.

- **Data Transfer**. Since video is stored as data, it can be transfered at data speeds using existing USB connections to any computer. No more "real time" capture using Firewire!
- **External microphone support.** This camcorder has a 3.5 mm (1/8") mini-plug microphone jack - a rarety these days!

After testing, here are a few things we know are not as great as we'd like.

- **No internal memory.** Don't forget to buy your SD card! (Amazon and B&H give away chips with them.)
- **"Pixela" Support Software:** Flip and Small Wonder Flash-based camcorders will auto-install support software and codecs. This one doesn't! Not only that, but the truly wretched software (called "Pixela") it bundles requires the CD, and the camcorder's serial number, to install. Not to worry...it isn't worth much anyway!
- **Camera playback of edited videos.** You can spit videos back to the camcorder for playback there, if you'd like. However, it requires "Pixela."
- **Compatability of format.** This camcorder uses the MPEG-2 format stored with the ".mod" extension. Although Windows Media Player will play the files, and Windows Movie Maker will import them, the latter stumbles over the sound codec and crashes when you try to "make movie." The forums I've read online say there's no solution 'cept use Vista, or buy software (Pinnacle, for example, has no problem with them).

Here's what we *don't* know about this camcorder - let us know what you find!

- **Dependability and usability.** This requires some direct experience!

More reading:

- [CDWG spec page and pricing](https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=29070) (our price will, of course, be less)
- [Canon USA information/spec page](https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=29070)

...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=29070

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Monday, November 24, 2008 12:54 PM: Internet Safety Ideas for Elementary Students

Teachers are finding some very creative ways for students to show what they have learned about Internet Safety.

Joy Buckingham, the technology teacher at Glendover Elementary School, had her 2nd grade students used a teacher made template in Microsoft Word to create a Safety Mini Book. Students were asked to write three internet safety rules, such as "don't give out your name, address or phone number to someone on the internet," for their books. Books were then displayed in the hallway.

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