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



Blind Beetles, Online Writing, Young Teachers, and Contests - it's TIPS for November '09!

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 11/2/2009

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #3 (November 2009)

TIPS is a feed of technology integration ideas for Fayette County teachers, delivered through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers. To see all editions (including pre-blog ones), visit our [old archives](#).

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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

Monday, November 02, 2009 7:30 AM: Blind



Did you know that the tiger beetle can sustain a speed of over 25 miles per hour in small bursts? To get a sense of how this compares to us: an Olympics-level 200 meter dash competitor runs at about 23 miles per hour, and covers about five and a half body lengths each second. In contrast the tiger beetle covers **over 53 of its body lengths per second!** But it comes with a price - the tiger beetle is blind when it moves that fast.

These interesting scientific facts serve as a context for a wonderful video essay by Shereen AbuSaeedi, [posted on YouTube](#), where the science as well as the social implications of blind speed are examined through images and music. But even further, the idea that how you move can impact what you see has meaning beyond just the fast-moving tiger beetle.

Elliot Eisner, a former Chicago art teacher who became one of the most powerful forces for education reform in the previous century, was the inspiration for this wonderful piece of student work. (It was, in fact, a Google search on "Elliot Eisner" which caused me to find it!) Dr. Eisner contended that artistic expression was not simply an extension of human emotion and creativity, that it served as a context in which any discipline - physics, mathematics, social science, biology, to name a few - could be served, supported, expressed, and learned. It provides an engaging way in which students can express their learning. In addition, it provides students with an improved ability to use modes of expression better suited to their individual abilities and interests, removing the traditional educational bias towards formal writing as a way to present learning (insisting that all students write a 3-page essay on the tiger beetle, for instance). But even further, standardizing on traditional modes of engagement and expression creates what Dr. Eisner called a "null curriculum." The absence of variety in modes of expression actually reduces our ability to fully understand a concept. "...The absence of a set of considerations or perspectives or the inability to use certain processes for appraising a context biases the evidence one is able to take into account...." (See [this article in The Teacher's Mind](#) for the full quote, and more on Eisner's examination of curriculum.) To paraphrase: our focus on only one mode of "movement" makes us blind to much of the context and depth of the concept we're trying to learn.



Do you want to try your hand at a multimedia project with your students? The Office of Instructional Technology has logistic support, instructional ideas - even a set of 10

digital camcorders for use in multimedia project learning - you can check them out for your class! [Contact us for details.](#)

Multimedia resources such as YouTube and KET EncycloMedia provide a wealth of things which students can *consume*. But to seriously engage them in the learning process, an attention to a variety of modes of *expression* are not only useful and motivating, but provide experiences which increase and extend the things students learn. Digital art, slide shows using images and music through PhotoStory, even full video essays, are very easy to accomplish through the use of simple technology tools. Most students are already immersed in, and conversant with, these tools. As a teacher, you can provide these classroom experiences with no more demand on your abilities than granting access to the tools, and assessing the results. You don't need to be an expert yourself!

One has to wonder - what has Shereen AbuSaeedi retained from the experience of producing this video essay...from biology? ...from art? ...from social science? ...life-long learning? Dr. Eisner, still a professor of education at Stanford University, would have a lot to say about that.

What do you say?

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

Robotics

(Personal blog)



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 10:28 AM: Important Dates for Robotics Competitions

The competition dates for First Lego League have been posted! We have several schools participating in this competition, which is always energetic and fun to watch! Start times for the events will be posted as soon as they are released.

University of Kentucky FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament

Date: Saturday, 12/5/2009

Location: University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2009 Kentucky FLL State Robotics Championship

Date: Saturday, 1/9/2010

Location: Diddle Arena, WKU, Bowling Green, KY

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=40708>

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 02, 2009 6:44 AM: STLP Fall Showcase



STLP Fall Showcase
University of Kentucky Ballroom
Thursday, November 12, 2009
Open to the Public: 10:00 - 12:00

Join us at the STLP Fall Showcase where schools from Fayette and surrounding counties will compete in the Showcase categories of Community Service, Entrepreneurial, Global Connections, Instructional, and Technical. The school groups are competing to earn a spot in the May State Championship with hopes of winning a trip to the [iste2010 Conference](#) in Denver, Colorado.

The schools competing this year include: Dixie Elementary, James Lane Allen Elementary, Julius Marks Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Maxwell Elementary, Bryan Station Middle School, Lexington Traditional Magnet School (competing in Louisville), Morton Middle School, Winburn Middle School, Bryan Station High School, Eastside Technical Center, and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. If you'd like to see what these schools and others have planned for this school year, please visit: http://teach.fcps.net/STLP/School/Plans09_10.htm.

Monday, November 02, 2009 6:51 AM: Dunbar's Windows 7 Launch & Learn



Paul Laurence Dunbar's STLP welcomed all Fayette County STLP high school students to a *Windows 7 Launch & Learn* event on Friday, October 23, 2009. Special guests included Tim Cornett, Education Technology Strategist and Joe Micholotti, both from Microsoft Corporation.

Those who attended had a chance to learn about:

- Windows 7
- Windows 7 Media Center
- IT Careers
- Xbox 360 connections
- Zune HD
- Microsoft Dreamspark Initiative
- Office 2010
- Movie Maker 2010



Thank you to the Dunbar students and STLP coordinators who made this possible.

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

Fayette County Literary E-Zine

Blog featuring student work posted by their teachers.



...from the desk of
Leanna Prater

Monday, November 02, 2009 10:48 AM: Fayette County's Literary E-Zine

Ricki Rosenberg over at Picadome Elementary has been sharing some student writing with others through the [Fayette County Literary E-Zine](#).

Our Literary E-Zine is a place available for teachers to publish student writing. It is just one of several "Content Umbrellas" which are available through our blog system, *The Point*.

The Point has many capabilities:

- **Public display of exemplary student writing.** *The Point* provides the secure and private writing environment for students, and the teacher-approved public display of the best of that work is handled by the content umbrellas.
- **Writing helps for students.** *The Point* provides the ability to construct and share writing "scaffolds" (called "Step by Step Helps") on any topic, writing style, and grade-appropriate level, with any number of steps and examples.
- **Comments from readers:** This is inherently supported through *The Point* - comments are a part of a teacher's assignment security decisions (see below), and can be made in "real time" if the teacher making the assignment so chooses. Only anonymous postings (where allowed) require approval, and teachers handle that themselves.
- **Scaled security and moderated access:** Students vs. teachers, and school membership, are instantly identified at login through the district computer network, so no account creation is required. Rights, control, and access are all selected at assignment design time by the teachers making the assignment...no technology support from any one else is required.

If you want your students to be included in any umbrella, just select one from the list on the Content Umbrella home page and click to go there. From that page, select the "Help/About" menu item, and follow the directions. You must be registered on *The Point* blogspace to use this resource...see the help files there to get started, or contact any of *The Point's* administrators through its "Help/About" page.

If you are interested in setting up a blog to use with your class or would like more information on how you can include student writing in Fayette County's Literary E-Zine, please contact District Technology Resource Teachers Leanna Prater or Jeff Jones.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=41973>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Friday, October 23, 2009 3:11 PM: Engaging Students using Videoconferencing!



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

This fall all schools were given the opportunity to sign up for a "free" to your school video conference. This money was made available through a grant for our district and MANY schools have taken advantage of the offer!!

There is still a little money left! If you are interested it is on a first come first serve basis and you can contact Diana Hendrix or Greg Drake to arrange an events.

We have watched *sharks*, learned about poetry, and become inspired writers.

At Garden Springs we went to Ohio to learn "Spooktacular Math". The students learned about bats, mammals and math. What a great way to integrate science and math!



At Meadowthorpe and Picadome we visited Seattle, Washington at the home of Adora Svitak, a 12 year old author, who has published 3 books since she was 7 years old. She taught the students at Picadome how to come up with inspiring ideas to write on and at Meadowthorpe she taught them about writing poetry. At other schools such as Veterans Park and Ashland, she taught them about descriptive writing. She is an amazing teacher. Take a look:



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

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, November 02, 2009 10:25 AM: KC3 Kids Creating Community Content Contest

What could people learn about Lexington, KY? What resources, history or other interesting information could we share about our unique community with others around the world through videoconferencing?

Tandberg and CILC have partnered to challenge teams of middle and high school students to develop and present a videoconferencing program about their community. Contest winners will be awarded and their program posted on the CILC website for future scheduling.

1st Place Prize includes a Tandberg 150 MXP desktop video conference phone, two free Virtual Field Trips and the program posted on the CILC Website.

Registration runs from August 15th- November 20th.

For more information, please visit: <http://kc3.cilc.org/index.html>

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

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, November 02, 2009 12:23 PM: Announcements for November

Here's what's new on Fayette County's courseware system:

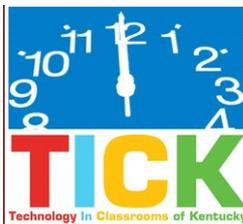
- **The TIDC 2nd Swap Meeting.** Join us Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5, 2009, IAKSS Annex 306, for a swap meet of ideas, resources, and a peak at coming new possibilities and tools. It's the Teacher's iSchool Development Community, and it wants *you!*
- **Leadership Communities!** Principals and other school leadership people have been participating in "cadres," with the intent of increasing student engagement in the classroom. With online discussions, multimedia, even a vodcast "charge" from our esteemed superintendent, Stu Silberman, the online learning communities in support of these "cadres" have been very active!
- **Attention Science/Math Teachers:** Fayette's iSchool now has the ability to generate and display scientific and mathematical expressions and equations. It's called "Dragmath." It takes a little getting used to, but it works great! Look for the  icon in any text editing window.

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

Announcements

Monday, November 02, 2009 10:08 AM: TICK

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



Great Resources - Plus Prizes

Contest ends December 15, 2009

Technology in Classrooms of Kentucky (TICK) is a database of instructional units, lessons plans, activities and assessments that are tied to the Technology Program of Studies as well as Kentucky core content and National Technology Standards.

Everyone who comments on a resource in TICK will have their name entered in a drawing for a **RCA SmallWonder Video Camcorder**. Everyone who submits 10 published resources to TICK will have their name entered in a drawing for a **Canon ZR830 Digital Video Camcorder**.

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



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