...the feed...

In this feed...

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

Intelligent Classrooms (Diana Hendrix, DTRT)

Student Technology Leadership Program (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

Robotics (Leanna Prater)

Internet Safety (Leanna Prater)

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

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

STLP Winners, "Smart" Communities, Selling Teacher Resources: It's TIPS for December, '09!

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 12/3/2009

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #4 (December 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.

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, December 01, 2009 6:36 PM: What's the Value of a Teacher's Hard Work?

The Internet hasn't just brought us instant information and ways to shop. For teachers, it has also provided us the ability to construct, collaborate, and share the process and end products our day to day work. The results can be as simple as a printable worksheet in PDF format, or as sophisticated as a "learning object" -- a collection of digital resources which support an entire unit or lesson on a specific "big idea." There are lots of home-grown platforms which support the development and sharing of resources, most of which operate "under the radar" -- membership is free, and teacher contributions are shared freely between members. (See the insert above right for two here in Fayette County.) A few vendors have also found that offering a place for teachers to collaborate enhances their own products - the Discovery Education Network (DEN), a part of KET EncycloMedia/Discovery Streaming is an excellent example. In DEN, teachers like you have shared powerpoints and complete lesson plans leveraging KET EM content with anyone under the KET EM contract umbrella. We've come a long way from the informal sharing that happens inside a school - copies of worksheets and quizzes circulating between department members or grade levels. There are great advantages of scale and diversity through such platforms!

Looking for people and a place to collaborate on producing units, resources, and plans? Join the Teacher's iSchool Development Community! Contact me for details.

Looking for a way in which to develop and share resources appropriate for "smart classroom" use? See this post on Diana Hendrix's "Intelligent Classroom" blog for a new group now forming.
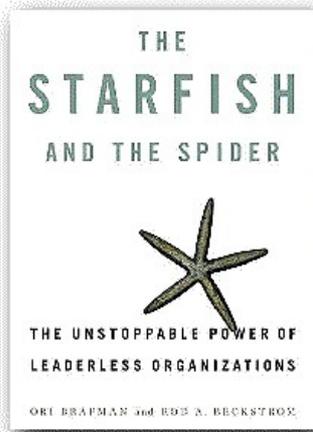
Of course, not just a few enterprising Internet businesses, not to mention teachers, have seen how this might fit into the world of commerce. A recent article in the New York Times, titled "Selling Lesson Plans Raises Cash and Questions," offers some of the ways in which this works online. Not surprisingly, a lot of teachers have looked at their salaries, their hard work, and their professional status in society, and decided to try to put a monetary value on the things they've created and sell them online. It's a very natural idea, and the article discusses several success stories.

The article also, as the title implies, raises concerns about what turning lesson design into a cash business does to what a teacher does, and how s/he does it. Legally, of course, a teacher's "on the clock time," and some resources s/he uses(including software and sometimes Internet access), belong to his/her employer -- in the case of public educators, that would mean the school board, the legal proxy for U.S. taxpayers. For them, selling the results of this time and access would be a violation of contract. But even if a teacher uses his/her own time, software, and resources, the process goes to the core of any public venture, including the work of public education.

What does it mean to be in the public employ, and how is that different from for-profit private interests? As you probably already know, quite a lot. At the core of it, we serve all "customers" equally, serving them regardless of ability -- financially, or otherwise. The same expectation is there for teachers themselves -- we want (and need!) all teachers to teach at high levels, and for students to succeed no matter what teacher, school, or district they attend. That is the idea.

One area in which these ideas play out online (with implications for this discussion) has been discussed in this blog before. Wikipedia (see the January 2009 entry) represents an example of what happens when large numbers of people pool their varied abilities and knowledge in the construction of something which has value for everyone. A lot of press has been given to the fact that commercial profitability would actually reduce the level of participation, and the quantity (even the quality!) of the result.

Another comes from the idea of leaderless organizations, described in convincing detail by Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom in their book The Starfish and the Spider. The principle at work here is that, if an organization has a core ideal, individuals who serve only as catalysts (rather than leaders), and a deliberately decentralized structure, it can often intimidate or even overcome very well-funded, top-down-controlled corporations and other organizations (including governments!). One of the best examples of this, from a technology standpoint, is the Open Source software movement. Decentralized, large-participant-count projects there are already very successful (providing the majority of Web delivery software, for instance). The idea has showed up in other areas as well, with the most famous of these being the California Open Textbook Project. Faced with massive education budget shortfalls, California's Department of Education has turned over the process of textbook development to any interested teacher or other content expert. The hope is that a Wikipedia-stype approach will produce high-quality textbooks which can be distributed digitally for free, or purchased for the cost of the printing! Although in its infancy, the project shows great promise, and is being replicated in other states.

These examples illustrate what can happen when we stop assuming that progress only comes from people competing with each other for money. Money causes people to stop comparing notes, and often to start paying attention to what might make a saleable item attractive and popular, rather than how it reflects good pedagogy and high-quality content. In contrast, when people share, they collaborate, and the work they produce have the potential to reach a higher level of excellence, and be spread to a higher audience. (And, as the California project implies, charging for a product implies that teachers and their district are able to pay!)

Along the way, group project participation places you in the company of like-minded teachers. To participate, you don't need much...just some interest, ability and attention!

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

Intelligent Classrooms

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

...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:55 AM: Mark Your Calendars!! Smart User Groups Coming in January

Mark your Calendars! We will begin our Smart User Groups in January.

The Elementary Smart User Group will meet at Deep Springs Elementary on January 27th at 3:30 in the Library!

The Middle School/High School User Group will meet at Henry Clay High School on January 13th at 4:30 in Bryson Perry's room!

This first meeting will be an organizational meeting where you will be able to give input into what you would like each meeting to look like. Will that be a small lesson/tip and then break out into groups to share by grade level? Or will it be that teachers present lessons they have created? What would help you the most?

There will be a short tips lesson at this first meeting and of course FOOD!

Thanks again to Deep Springs and Henry Clay for hosting our first events!!!

If you need more information please contact diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us

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

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 30, 2009 12:14 PM: 2009 Fall Showcase Winners!

STLP Fall Showcase
University of Kentucky
- November 12, 2009
University of Louisville
- November 24, 2009

We are very proud of all of our Student Technology Leaders who participated in this year's STLP Regional Fall Showcase. The students and their coordinators who will advance to the state level of showcase competition in May include:

- Dixie Elementary/Kelly Fisher: *Get Moving Dixie!*
- James Lane Allen Elementary/Billy Moberley: *Solar Energy*
- Julius Marks Elementary/Debbie Kiser: *JME-TV: Your Information Station!*
- Liberty Elementary/Melinda Caudill: *Fun Fall Photos*
- Liberty Elementary/Melinda Caudill: *Recycling*
- Maxwell Elementary/Adam Brewer & Michelle Grant: *WMAX - ¿Que Pasa en Maxwell?*
- Lexington Traditional Middle School/Julie Cheuvront: *Building a Brand - Tokyo Grill*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Careers in Tech*nology
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Endangered Sp*ecies
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Global Warming*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *How Technology has Enhanced Exercise*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Hybrid*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Multilanguage Office*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Pandemic*
- Bryan Station High School/Brett Owens: *Upward Basketball*
- Eastside Campus of Fayette Technical/Tanya Varnish: *Great Software - No Cost*
- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School/Kim Overstreet & Jim Adams:

iCommand Center

- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School/Kim Overstreet & Jim Adams: *Reducing the Digital Divide*

The students and their coordinators who will advance to the state level of presenter competition in May include:

- Liberty Elementary/Melinda Caudill: *Assessment*
- Lexington Traditional Middle School/Julie Cheuvront: *Tokyo Grill Franchise*
- Morton Middle School/Gary DeBorde: *What is Pinnacle?*
- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School/Kim Overstreet & Jim Adams: *iCommand Center*

The students and their coordinator who will advance to the state level of service competition in May include:

- Julius Marks Elementary/Debbie Kiser: *JME-TV*

Bryan Station High School also had a student qualify as an alternate engineer to the state competition.

[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

Robotics

(Personal blog)

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Monday, November 30, 2009 10:34 AM: STEM + Robots + Competition = First Lego League Tournament

It's all about TRANSPORTATION this year for the First Lego League and Jr. First Lego League teams- from researching transportation issues to programming their robot to avoid and survive impacts on the playing field.

The University of Kentucky is hosting the regional competition for First Lego League this Saturday morning, December 5th, in the Student Center where teams from several Fayette County schools will get the chance to compete for a spot at the state FLL tournament. The public is welcome to attend!

Jr. FLL teams will share their research projects with judges and First Lego League teams will compete in research presentations, robot design/technical presentation, and teamwork. The most exciting two and a half minutes for each First Lego League team is the game. Students have been working hard over the past few weeks to design and program their robot to get as many points as they can by completing missions and navigating this playing field:

If you are interested in reading all of the missions teams are trying to complete or would like more information about FIRST robotics, you can visit their site: http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll/Default.aspx

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

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.
...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Monday, November 30, 2009 10:55 AM: Internet Safety Mentors Gearing Up for Another Fantastic Year

Our high school student Internet Safety Mentors are gearing up for another fantastic year of sharing important information about personal safety and predator awareness online, especially in social networking sites, with sixth grade middle school students. We are planning our first mentoring stops this month and our high school students are very excited. Be sure to follow this blog in TIPS to stay updated on the successful implementation of this program.

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

The Video-Linked Classroom

Thursday, December 03, 2009 12:55 PM: MAGPI Contract Expires - New Pricing

For those of you who have used MAGPI as videoconferencing content providers in the past --

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County

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

the contract between MAGPI and Kentucky (managed through the Council on Postsecondary Education) expires December 31. MAGPI has released a price list for individual and district membership. There is no plan for Fayette County to subscribe as a district at this time, so if your school wishes to continue using MAGPI content, your school would need to join at a cost of $500/year.

   We've been spoiled by high-quality content for free for over 2 years, but even at this price, the content is well worth the money. A few MAGPI events Fayette County schools have used in the past include:

- **Stand Up, Speak Out, Lend a Hand.** This service project-based two-videoconference partnership between MAGPI and the Klein Foundation features Holocost survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein.
- **Flat Stanley.** This collaborative writing project went digital several years ago, and MAGPI supports videoconference connections between collaborative schools.
- **Alex's Lemonade Stand**. Based on the work of cancer victim Alex Scott, the Foundation and MAGPI support a service project format for young elementary students.

Here is the MAGPI brochure (PDF on SharePoint's VC and Webcasting Center) outlining membership requirements and costs.

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

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